

# Guard builds schools, clinics — and skills

By **Steve Olson**  
At Ease staff

For Wisconsin National Guard soldiers, winter training usually requires the physical and mental endurance to function at peak levels in freezing temperatures.

In stark contrast to the wind and cold of normal winter training, a group of Wisconsin National Guard soldiers spent two weeks in January guzzling bottled water instead of hot coffee as they labored in sweltering temperatures under a scorching tropical sun. Uniform sleeves were down to prevent sunburn, not frostbite.

Although battling 96 degree temperatures was quite an extraordinary winter experience, the rewards were great — exceptional training for Wisconsin soldiers and more schools and better medical care for an impoverished nation.

Wisconsin Guard engineers, truck drivers, mechanics, medics and support personnel recently returned from missions with Joint Task Force Chontales. The task force is named for the region in Nicaragua where National Guard, active duty and Reserve units from all branches of the armed forces are training in two-week rotations from January to May. Wisconsin Guard soldiers are participating in all nine rotations, some of which will have as many as 650 military personnel.

This training will improve the readiness of U.S. engineer and support units by conducting overseas movements to construct and repair schools and medical clinics with the cooperation and assistance of the Nicaraguan government. U.S. medical personnel are receiving vital training by providing health and dental care to Nicaraguans and to the U.S.

forces conducting the operation. U.S. soldiers also are providing veterinary care in Chontales, a rural area of Nicaragua with many cattle ranches.

To provide security for the task force, members of the Nicaraguan armed forces are living alongside the U.S. troops. In addition, Nicaraguan doctors and nurses will assist during the upcoming medical readiness exercises to create an exchange of ideas between the medical staffs of both countries.

Joint Task Force Chontales is part of the New Horizons initiative, a U.S. Army sponsored program in Central and South America. It is designed to train U.S. military engineering, medical and support personnel and to provide civic improvements and medical assistance to the host nation.

## First rotation lays the groundwork

Joint Task Force Chontales, commanded by Lt. Col. Patrick Gallagher of the 264th Engineer Group, Wisconsin Army National Guard, poses quite a challenge for Wisconsin soldiers.

For instance, during the first rotation (Jan. 18 to Feb. 3), Wisconsin Guard soldiers from the 229th Engineer Company and

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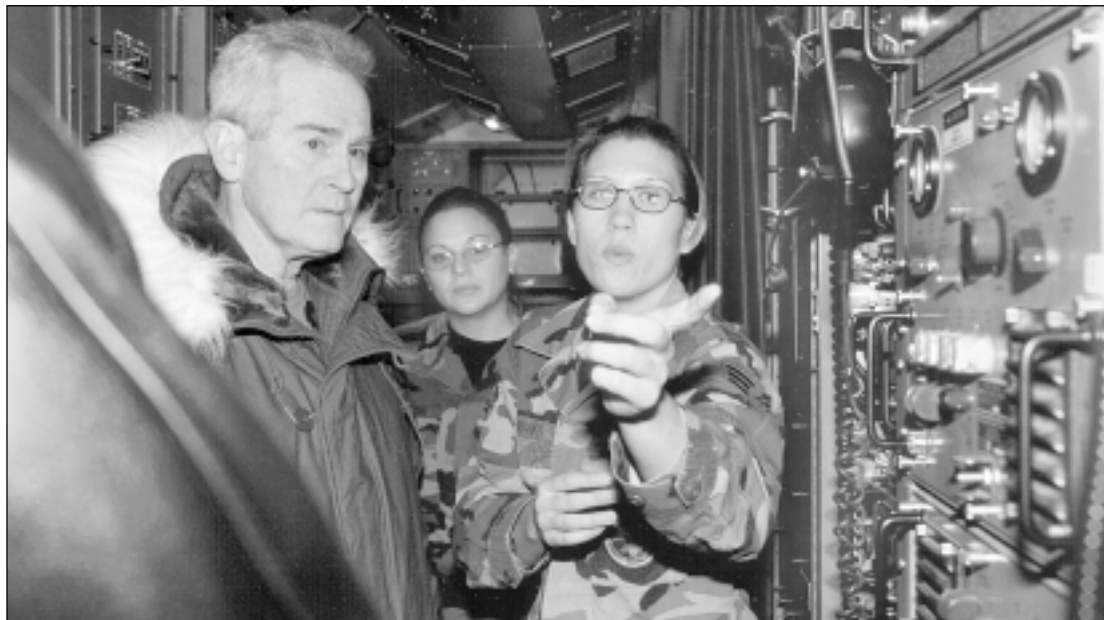


Staff Sgt. Charles Congleton (left), a member of the Wisconsin Army National Guard's Company B, 724th Engineer Battalion, uses a static wand to prevent electrical shock as Pvt. Peyton Ferguson of the 37th Engineer Battalion, Fort Bragg, N.C., waits to hook a sling-load of plywood to a Black Hawk helicopter. Photo by Steve Olson.

# at ease

Celebrating 25 years of service to  
members of the Wisconsin Army and  
Air National Guard and their families  
April 2002

## Mobile radar paints Midwest air picture



Senior Airman Sarah Ebersold, right, and Staff Sgt. Jamie Tratnik show Maj. Gen. Blaney radar equipment that was used to monitor the skies over the Chicago area. Photo by Kelly Pensinger.

## 128th Air Control Squadron protects skies over Chicago

By **Kelly Pensinger**  
At Ease Staff

Air controllers of the 128th Air Control Squadron (ACS) have been "going to the field" for years — but after Sept. 11 they literally did, setting up shop on a frozen soybean field in northern Illinois to assist with America's homeland defense in Operation NOBLE EAGLE.

On a small patch of snow-covered land near Marengo, northwest of Chicago, members of the Volk Field-based squadron monitored southern Wisconsin and northern Illinois skies twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week

after the attacks on our nation.

"The McHenry County Conservation District, which owns the land that we deployed to, never hesitated in providing us everything that we needed," said Lt. Col. Herb Dannenberg, commander of the 128th ACS.

The 128th spent 113 days in the field, from Oct. 23, 2001 to Feb. 12, 2002. Members rotated between the deployment site and Volk Field, spending two or three days at a time at the remote unit.

The unit deployed its long-range TPS-75 radar van, operations module, satellite van and generators in order to provide a real-time picture of all aircraft near Chicago to the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD). Originally, NORAD was only tasked to guard our bor-

See 'Marengo Ridge' page 3

## Top NCOs meet airport security troops

By **Kelly Pensinger**  
At Ease Staff

Army and Air National Guard troops guarding Wisconsin's airports got a double dose of top-level NCOs this winter.

First, in mid-January, Command Sgt. Maj. A. Frank Lever, senior enlisted advisor of the U.S. Army National Guard, visited troops at the Milwaukee, Appleton and Green Bay airports. Then, on February 15-16, First Army command sergeant major Jeffrey Mellinger — who represents all enlisted active-duty, reserve and National Guard soldiers east of the Mississippi River — paid a visit to the Milwaukee, Appleton, LaCrosse and Green Bay airports.

Both senior NCOs have been visiting airports all over the United States to get an overview of Operation Noble Eagle and to boost morale among the troops.

Command Sgt. Maj. Lever heard praise for the Wisconsin National Guard during his stay in Madison.

"As I was entering the hotel (in uniform) a civilian stopped me and asked if I had just gotten off duty from the airport," Lever said. "I introduced myself and she complimented the National Guard for their performance. She explained she travels frequently and feels safer knowing that the National Guard is there."

National Guard troops are to remain in our nation's airports until May 31, 2002.

"Our troops engaged in Operation Noble Eagle have truly done an outstanding job," said Command Sgt. Maj. John Hauschildt, command sergeant major of the Wisconsin Army National Guard. "Their professional appearance, attitude and performance certainly helped restore a sense of security to the travelers in our airports."



Command Sgt. Maj. A. Frank Lever, left, command sergeant major of the Army National Guard, meets with Staff Sgt. John Dungan of Appleton and Staff Sgt. Terry Glysch of Two Rivers at the Appleton airport. Photo by Kelly Pensinger.



# Editorial

## Strong public support for U.S. military: It’s about time

There was a time in this country — and it was not that long ago — when many of the people whose freedoms are protected by men and women in uniform had little good to say about us. The broad public support of our armed forces that swept over America during World War II began contracting by the Korean War, shrank further during the 1950s and early 60s, then all but disappeared in the Vietnam era.

While U.S. forces fought in Vietnam, many Americans at home abandoned them. Worse yet, when our servicemen and women came home many were reviled for their participation in a war most Americans did not support. America forgot the difference between an unpopular policy and the brave men and women who shouldered its burdens.

Then the world began to change: Americans held hostage in Teheran, the Marine barracks bombed in Beirut, the Gulf War, attacks on U.S. embassies in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam, the Cole.

Slowly, our nation began to appreciate once again not only the importance of our armed forces, but also those men and women who serve and protect our nation — and who guarantee with their blood the freedoms that make the United States what Lincoln called “the last best hope of Earth.”

September 11th shocked Americans with the frightening realization that this nation still requires protection from those forces who would destroy it. And, unlike our bitter experiences in Iran, Lebanon, Kuwait, Kenya, Tanzania and Yemen — September 11th brought attacks on America right to our shores.

In the months since that terrible day in September our nation has embraced her men and women in uniform with appreciation largely unknown since victorious Americans marched home from WWII. The support is heartfelt. It is overwhelming. It is overdue.

A public opinion poll released in January shows that Americans have more confidence in the U.S. armed forces than in any other institution in the nation.

As Wisconsin Army and Air National Guard troops answered the call for service in Operations NOBLE EAGLE and ENDURING FREEDOM, we began to feel the swelling support from within our own state. Christmas cards and Valentines poured into the National Guard state headquarters so they could be forwarded to our troops deployed around the world.

Many of these greetings came from children too young to fully understand the implications of the war on terrorism. Yet these young minds sensed that sacrifices were being made on their behalf, that their neighbors were in harm’s way — and that this was somehow important to them and to their safety.

Where are the Americans who support our armed forces? They are adults who pay taxes, vote in elections and take opinion polls. They are business owners who employ members of the Guard and reserve. They are friends and neighbors of service members. They are mothers and fathers. They are people who have never even seen a soldier, airman, sailor or Marine. And they are children who send Valentines to National Guard members they have never met — deployed to places they cannot pronounce.

They are everywhere.

Still, there will be pockets of nonsupporters — and we will see the occasional critic or protester. Freedom of expression — even by those who don’t support us — is a right we in uniform guarantee.

But for now we should be grateful for the broad support we are receiving from a public that has not always stood behind the armed forces as we protect them and this nation from harm.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■

A new opinion poll in Wisconsin also places the armed forces high on the list of institutions in which the public has the most confidence. Although the military doesn’t rank at the top, we are in second place — just below firefighters and just above police officers.

That’s mighty good company.

## at ease

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## at ease: TWENTY YEARS AGO...



Photo by Norman Lenburg

From the Winter 1982 edition:

Spc. 5 Mark O’Brien handed out gifts to senior citizens who were special guests at the annual holiday party sponsored by the 724th Engineer Battalion’s Headquarters Company at the Superior armory.

Cash donations from the unit paid for three special buses to help transport guests to the armory for several hours of entertainment and holiday fun.

### Other news from 20 years ago:

- The Wisconsin Army Guard prepared to switch from its olive-drab fatigues to the new camouflage design of the Battle Dress Uniform (BDU). Units with highest mobilization priority would be first to receive BDUs. Soldiers too eager to wait for their unit to issue the new uniform could purchase it for \$37 at Fort McCoy or Fort Sheridan, Ill.
- Key personnel from Army engineer units in the United States and Europe met in Eau Claire to develop Capstone relationships. The Capstone program linked Guard and Reserve units with the active-duty headquarters they were slated to join in the event of a wartime mobilization. The meeting was hosted by the 264th Engineer Group, under the command of Col. Jerome J. Berard.

## Column left...CLICK!

By Kelly Pensinger  
At Ease Staff

No matter what branch of service you’re in, you can find a lot of news and information at [www.militarycity.com](http://www.militarycity.com).

A quiet homepage with no flashy graphics or sounds, this portal to the newspapers Army Times, Navy Times, Air Force Times and Marine Times will direct you to service-specific information.

Each Times newspaper Web page is set up about the same, with a special subscriber section on the left side and recent news stories down the center. At the top of the page you can click on tabs such as Money, Community, Health, R&R, Career Builders, Guard & Reserve, Military Law and Shopping. Under the Community tab, for instance, you can read stories relating to military families and retirement.

Just below the tabs are buttons labeled Subscribe, Locators, Polls, Chat, Feedback, About Us, Advertise and Help. On the Chats page you can post or view messages to discussions like “What’s it like where you’re stationed?” and “Enlisting.”

On the right-hand side are the e-Classifieds, where you can find or list a home, find a lawyer, get a loan, look for a job, continue your education or go to



a “franchise center,” which lists franchised business opportunities. The

“Continue your education” section leads to a search engine to find a school. Unfortunately, after navigating to Wisconsin and getting a list of over 25 colleges, universities and technical schools, you will be disappointed to find that none of the schools on the list are linked to their respective Web sites.

**Rated Items**  
(scale of 1-5, 5 being highest):  
**Website content:** 4 4 4 4 4  
**Ease of use:** 4 4 4  
**Download speed:** 4 4 4 4 4  
**Interactive features:** 4 4  
**Relevant to Guard:** 4 4  
**Total Rating:** 4 4 4

Besides the straight news stories from the pages of the Army and Air Force Times, you might want to check out “Letters from a Two-Front War: Connect with heroes of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM!” You can read letters to and from deployed troops, post a message, or see letters written by children. These messages between family and friends are filled with encouragement, support and thanks.

Overall, [www.militarycity.com](http://www.militarycity.com) is a good source for service-specific news and uplifting letters to troops supporting Operation ENDURING FREEDOM.

## Letter to the Editor

To the Editor:

I’m writing in reference to the At Ease story “Tricare for Life bill passed” (November 2001). Your item is very misleading, i.e. “with Tricare you do not need a Medicare supplement.” This is not really true. Tricare health coverage will cover everything after you pay the first \$3,000 per (each) fiscal year (1 Oct-30 Sept) catastrophic cap. To me, this does not fulfill lifetime Medicare free coverage I was promised upon my enlistment June 1949.

I’m a retired Master Sergeant (E-7 USAF). Retired Nov. ‘71. The only difference in this bill is the out of pocket cost. Old: \$7,500 per year. New: \$3,000 per year. If this is free medical care coverage, I got lost somewhere.

I have Blue Cross/Blue Shield full coverage for \$164.35 a month. I’m 71 years old — no way could I stop this coverage and rely on Tricare. I have paid over \$19,000 since I turned 65. I lost my wife in 1998 and had to pay \$7,500 catastrophic cap. Had she not

died, I would have to pay \$7,500 yearly. So we do not have “free” medical care as promised.

I appreciate your At Ease.

MSgt. (Ret.) Norman R. Sweet  
Friendship, Wis.

Editor’s Note: Information about Tricare for Life which appeared in the last edition of At Ease was provided by the Department of Defense news service

To be eligible for TRICARE For Life, retired members of the Guard or reserve and their eligible dependents and survivors must be eligible for Medicare Part A and also enrolled in Medicare Part B — the same as any other military retired beneficiary.

TRICARE For Life makes TRICARE available as a secondary payer to Medicare, which means TRICARE will pay most of the costs not covered by Medicare for these beneficiaries, eliminating many co-payments and deductibles.

For services covered by both Medicare and TRICARE, for example, Medicare pays its authorized amount, TRICARE pays remaining out-of-pocket costs — and the TRICARE subscriber pays nothing.

Anyone with questions about TRICARE For Life can call TRICARE’s toll-free number, 1-888-DOD-LIFE (1-888-363-5433).

### Correction

Information provided to At Ease incorrectly identified Staff Sgt. Kent Wesner as Sgt. 1st Class Ronald Charneski for the photo published on page 20 of the November 2001 issue. We regret the error.



# Air Guard hero feels the heat at car fire



Master Sgt. Michael Post

By Kelly Pensinger  
At Ease Staff

A Wisconsin Air National Guard member on his way to a training course Jan. 10 at the state headquarters building in Madison rescued two people involved in a serious car accident.

Master Sgt. Michael Post, Poynette, an accessories element supervisor with the 115th Fighter Wing, was traveling south on Highway 51 when he came upon two severely damaged vehicles, one of them smoking.

Post pulled over and went to check the first vehicle. The victim was still inside and shaken, but not hurt. He ran to the second vehicle.

“As I arrived, it burst into flames. Both the driver and passenger were unconscious,” Post said.

As he checked the driver for vital signs, she became conscious. Post cut her seatbelt with a pocketknife and, with the help of another person who had pulled up to the scene, removed her from the vehicle.

Post then turned his attention to the passenger. His condition was more severe, with injuries including compound fractures to his upper thigh, a broken jaw and several facial lacerations.

“I then realized the fire was spreading but still under the hood of the car. I also realized his legs were pinned under the dashboard,” Post reported.

At this time another person applied a dry chemical fire extinguisher to the fire, but the flames immediately resumed when the extinguisher was expended.

Another person driving by, Donald Bach, a

retired Navy captain, stopped at the scene to offer assistance.

“Not only did [Post] try to comfort and calm the young man who was in obvious distress,” Bach said, “but he also attempted to extricate him from the burning vehicle.”

While awaiting emergency help, volunteers on the scene applied three more fire extinguishers, but to no avail — the fire was quickly spreading to the dash area and getting closer to the victim.

The fire department and EMTs then arrived and took over. All victims were treated and taken to the hospital.

“Master Sgt. Post’s actions were not only selfless and courageous, but reflected the finest traditions of citizen-soldier service to the public,” Bach said. “He is a credit to himself, to his unit and to the Wisconsin National Guard.”

## Marengo Ridge

Continued from Page 1

ders and not the interior of the continental United States. The 128th ACS was sent to Illinois to help provide that capability as part of the homeland defense initiative. They assisted in detecting, locating and identifying threatening aircraft flying around Chicago.

When an aircraft takes off from O’Hare Airport, it is given a four-digit “squawk” number. Each aircraft is tracked on the radar screen to create an air picture which is then sent to higher headquarters, such as NORAD.

Everything at the remote radar site can be done within the unit. The 128th ACS can bring its own medics, cooks, security, and it even generates its own electricity. Dannenberg said personnel are of-

ten multi-tasked, each having a primary job responsibility and secondary duties, such as pulling security details. This keeps members interested and helps with retention.

People in the Marengo community were very supportive. Many stopped by with meals, cookies, doughnuts, or words of praise. Some local families even invited members to their homes on the holidays — so many, in fact, that the unit couldn’t honor all invitations.

“They went so far as to bring us full course meals. It was very rewarding having the whole community supporting the mission at hand,” Dannenberg said.

Senior Airman Sarah Ebersold, LaCrosse, said, “We were treated wonderfully down there. I felt very proud to be a military member.”



The 128th Air Control Squadron, Volk Field, called this frozen soy bean field home for 113 days as they helped monitor the skies over Chicago in support of Operation Noble Eagle. Photo by Kelly Pensinger.

## Busy times: Guard deployed around the world



Twelve members of the 829th Engineer Detachment, Richland Center, pose for a group photo in December while deployed to “an undisclosed location in Central Asia.” The soldiers later moved into Afghanistan.

Wisconsin National Guard members are deployed across the country and around the world — in support of U.S. military efforts to fight terrorism, on scheduled deployments, to support Aerospace Expeditionary Force (AEF) commitments, on Presidential Selected Reserve Call-ups and for humanitarian missions.

As At Ease went to press at the end of March, nearly 900 Army and Air Guard members were on active duty for Operations NOBLE EAGLE or ENDURING FREEDOM. Air Guard support included about 550 members of the 115th Fighter Wing, Madison; nearly 250 members of Milwaukee’s 128th Air Refueling Wing; and about 50 members of the Volk Field-based 128th Air Control Squadron.

Twelve members of one Army Guard unit, the 829th Engineer Detachment of Richland Center, were mobilized in November, deployed overseas in December

and are now on duty in Afghanistan.

Other Army Guard soldiers from units across the state are completing an airport security mission that began in September at nine Wisconsin airports. Several members of the Wisconsin Air Guard also served on Task Force NOBLE BADGER, which had as many as 125 Guard members on duty during the Thanksgiving to New Years holiday period. The mission began winding down at the end of March and is expected to be completed in May as local law enforcement agencies and federal airport security workers assume responsibility for airport security.

The largest number of Guard members on duty is from the 115th Fighter Wing, which deployed six F-16 fighter aircraft, crews and support personnel to Langley Air Force Base, Va., in late February. Madison’s fighters will fly combat air patrols over Washington, D.C.

through the end of May.

Other fighter wing personnel remain on duty at Truax Field in Madison where the unit has an ongoing alert mission. In addition, smaller groups — including security forces, civil engineers and services personnel — are deployed around the world for either ENDURING FREEDOM or AEF support.

Similarly, the 128th Air Refueling Wing has members on duty both at Mitchell Field and overseas.

As if the Wisconsin Guard weren’t busy enough, Madison’s 147th Aviation Battalion troops are on active duty in Kuwait for Operation DESERT SPRING; members of the 32nd Military Police Company, Milwaukee and Madison, were ordered to active duty as part of the Bosnia stabilization force in Hungary — and more than a dozen Army Guard units trained in Nicaragua as part of a humanitarian assistance task force.

## Changes...

Brig. Gen. James P. Daley was promoted to his current rank and assigned as assistant adjutant general for readiness and training at the Army Guard state headquarters in February.

Daley succeeds Brig. Gen. Andrew M. Schuster, who retired in January.

Daley is a Marine combat veteran of the Vietnam war and has served in the Wisconsin Army National Guard since 1974. He was previously assigned as director of logistics following two years as commander of the 32nd Infantry Brigade.

He has also served as a mechanized infantry battalion commander and in several other staff assignments, including direc-

tor of personnel and administration.

In another command change, Lt. Col. Dennis Simons became the new commander of the 732nd Maintenance Battalion in March.



Brig. Gen. Daley

The Tomah-based battalion includes the 107th Maintenance Company of Sparta and its two detachments in Viroqua and Sussex, the 1158th Transportation Company of Beloit and two detachments in Tomah and Black River Falls, and the 1157th Transportation Company in Oshkosh.

Simons succeeded Col. Thomas Gregar, who was promoted to his current rank is assigned as director of maintenance.

## 147th aviators give Joint Chiefs chairman a lift

By American Forces Press Service  
and Maj. Tammy Gross

When the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff broke holiday bread with American troops in the Kuwaiti desert, it was Madison’s 147th Aviation Battalion that got him there and back.

Two days before Christmas, Air Force Gen. Richard B. Myers and his wife, Mary Jo, flew from Doha, Qatar, to Kuwait City, Kuwait. They then flew north in a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter operated by the 147th to visit Army troops stationed at three camps near the Iraqi border.

A few miles before the first encampment, left-window passengers were stirred at the sight of a huge square of burnt, twisted metal. Wisconsin National Guard



Gen. Myers

Sgt. Johnny Simmons, crew chief on the Black Hawk, explained that they were seeing Iraqi military equipment blasted by U.S. troops and allies as the Iraqis retreated north from Kuwait late in the 1990-91 Gulf War.

Myers’ visit went over well with deployed service members, with one Air Force NCO remarking, “I think it’s very good. Somebody is actually coming over here to support us and show us that they care.”



## State News Briefs

### Update personal data to protect benefits

Did you know that you or a family member could lose medical benefits if you do not update your information on the Defense Eligibility Enrollment Reporting System (DEERS)?

DEERS stores medical benefit data for military personnel, retirees, and eligible family members. When an eligible family member receives a uniformed services identification and privilege card, or ID card, that information is deposited in DEERS. However, the sponsor must ensure the information is correct. If you marry, move, or have a new baby, or if your child becomes an adult, you must make sure that DEERS data reflects those changes.

If you marry but neglect to register your spouse in DEERS, he or she is not eligible for medical benefits until you do so. If you move but don't submit the current address of each family member to DEERS, your family may not receive essential messages regarding medical benefits, such as information about the mail-order pharmacy. If you forget to register a newborn in DEERS, after 365 days the child is not eligible for medical benefits until you complete the registration in DEERS. In addition, newborns can lose eligibility for TRICARE Prime medical coverage after 120 days.

Making changes to DEERS is easy to do. You can make changes through your military support office, the same office that assists you with your ID card. When making changes, it's a good idea to take documentation with you, such as a marriage certificate or birth certificate. You can locate your nearest military support office at RAPIDS Site Locator [www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl/](http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl/) on the Web. To make address changes or to verify data, log on to the Defense Manpower Data Center [www.dmdc.osd.mil/swg/owa/webguard](http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/swg/owa/webguard).

### State safeguards DD214s

Wisconsin veterans do not risk identity theft by filing their military separation papers with their county register of deeds, officials say. In a joint statement issued March 11, the presidents of the Wisconsin Register of Deeds Association (WRDA) and the County Veterans Service Officers (CVSO) Association of Wisconsin quote Wisconsin Statutes 45.21, which states, "The certificate shall be accessible only to the person or dependents, the county veterans service officer, department of veterans affairs, or any person with written authorization from the person discharged or dependents."

According to a Jan. 22 news release, the Army Personnel Command's Transition Center no longer recommends filing a copy of Department of Defense Form 214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty) at the veteran's county courthouse. That's because, in at least one recent case, DD214s on file in a county were mined for names and Social Security numbers by a felon who used them in an illegal check cashing scheme.

In Wisconsin, however, "the confidentiality and privacy of the document are well protected under state law," said Connie L. Olson, Pierce County register of deeds, and Jim R. Riesenberg, CVSO for Sheboygan County. But the two association presidents recommended that vets with DD214s on file in counties outside Wisconsin "check with your respective state's custodian of records as to the confidentiality of your record."

### SLRP procedures change

There has been "a major change in the Student Loan Repayment Program that affects every Wisconsin Army National Guard soldier who has this program," according to a Jan. 4 memorandum from Col. Arthur C. Zuleger, director of personnel and administration in the state Army Guard headquarters.

According to the memo, "The Department of Defense (DOD) has determined that there had been an error in the administration of the Student Loan Repayment Program, which violated the Federal statutes. The maximum payment of 15 percent or \$500, which ever is greater, will be paid on the original principal only. The \$10,000 Student Loan Repayment Program has a cap of \$1,500 per year up to a \$10,000 maximum total and the \$20,000 Student Loan Repayment Program has a cap of \$3,000 per year on principal up to a \$20,000 maximum total. The \$10,000 and the \$20,000 Student Loan Repayment Program *will no longer pay interest if it causes the cap to be exceeded!*"

The effective date of the change is Aug. 27, 2001. Questions should be directed to Sgt. 1st Class Sherry A. Gehring at (608) 242-3423 or -3449.

### Hall of Honor inductees

The Wisconsin Army National Guard Hall of Honor induction ceremony took place Sunday, April 7th, 2002, in the Capitol rotunda. The following have been inducted for 2001: Col. (Retired) Donald A. Anderson, Maj. Gen. (Deceased) Waldemar "Fritz" Breidster, Chief Warrant Officer 4 (Retired) Robert J. Degroot, Chief Warrant Officer 4 (Retired) Patricia A. Gundlach, Col. (Deceased) Arthur J. Kessenich, Maj. Gen. (Retired) Raymond A. Matera, Command Sgt. Maj. (Retired) Lawrence W. Murray, Chief Warrant Officer (Deceased) William A. Reiter, Sgt. Maj. (Retired) Wayne W. Sedgwick, and Brig. Gen. (Retired) Barry W. Young.

At Ease will provide details of the Hall of Honor ceremony in the next edition.

# Private company donates security forces training

By MSgt. Wayne J. Rodriguez  
128th Air Refueling Wing

Donated time was the key element in upgrading the readiness of the 128th Security Forces Squadron in January. Some 30 unit members of the Milwaukee-based Air Guard unit volunteered two days of their own time to receive training in the effective use of non-deadly force. The trainer — CDT Training, Inc., Waterford, Wis. — responded by canceling their usual \$395 per pupil fee for the workshop.

"I see myself in these guys — 30 years ago," said Tom Fischer, senior instructor at CDT's Waterford location — "and if a little extra training could possibly save some lives, then I wanted to do it. I love America and have an abiding loyalty to it. If everyone lent their talents to the job at hand, things would be a lot better."

The project got started when Staff Sgts. Jack Alloy and Jason Wolf approached Fischer about training squadron members. After speaking with Alloy about it, Fischer asked company president Thomas J. Patire to consider providing two days of training at no cost to the unit. Patire immediately agreed.

The "CDT" in the company's name stands for "compliance, direction, takedown." Fischer said CDT is the most effective non-deadly force system in the world, tested in thousands of cases where justifiable force was needed, without a single permanent injury to any person. During the two days of training, held at the company's Waterford location, the Karate Shop, squadron members learned how to gain safe control of a person with less-than-deadly force by means of empty-handed tactics.

Everyone who took the course enjoyed it and also built their Air Guard specialty-related skills, according to Wolf and Alloy.



Who's controlling whom? Airman 1st Class Michael Schutta and Tech. Sgt. Denise Cournoyer, both members of the 128th Security Forces Squadron, practice the use of non-deadly force during the unit's extracurricular training session in January. Wisconsin Air National Guard photo.

## "Happy birthday, wherever you are!"



Spc. Lucas Kramer's family sends early birthday greetings during a video teleconference that brought 829th Engineer Detachment soldiers and families together — from the state headquarters in Madison to a deployed location in Central Asia. Kramer, whose 20th birthday was three weeks away when he talked to his family in late January, deployed with eleven other Richland Center soldiers in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Seven-year-old cousin Haley, far right, thought Lucas was "across the ocean" somewhere and guessed he was about "a hundred miles" away. Ten of the twelve 829th soldiers had a chance for a 20-minute televisit arranged by the state headquarters information management staff. Although not quite the same as being face to face, families and soldiers appreciated the chance to see each other — even from "100 miles" away. Photo by Tim Donovan.



# No kidding: Kids love deployed troops

By Mike Callen  
At Ease Staff

Since Sept. 11, there have been countless expressions of support for the troops — songs written, speeches given, and proclamations made by famous people and elected officials. Amid all this patriotism, the support of Wisconsin school children for National Guard members has gone largely unnoticed.

Kids from Madison, Tigerton, Marshfield and other places in Wisconsin (even from Waukon, Iowa!) wanted to show their support for the men and women protecting them. With Operation Dear Abby — the Defense Department-sponsored “any service member” mailing program — closed down due to security concerns, their teachers have been calling Guard members, armories and state headquarters asking for help.

Eventually the caller is told to send the cards the state public affairs office for forwarding; a few days later a box or large envelope containing a jumble of purple, pink, yellow, green and blue paper arrives at the Wisconsin National Guard public affairs office in Madison. One such package even contained a paper bouquet with pink tissue paper flowers. There have been letters, Christmas cards and Valentines by the dozens — hundreds of kid-hours of work, all with the same message: “Thank you.”

Some kids made their card in keyboarding class and then hand-colored the clip art. Others cut theirs out of construction paper and decorated it with magic marker and loads of sparkly silver powder. A few of the cards are masterpieces of innovation and execution with precise writing and pop-up centers. Others are just a nearly illegible labor of love by a boy or girl still mastering the art of cursive writing while staying inside the lines. Most are somewhere in between.

All show a heartfelt appreciation and concern.

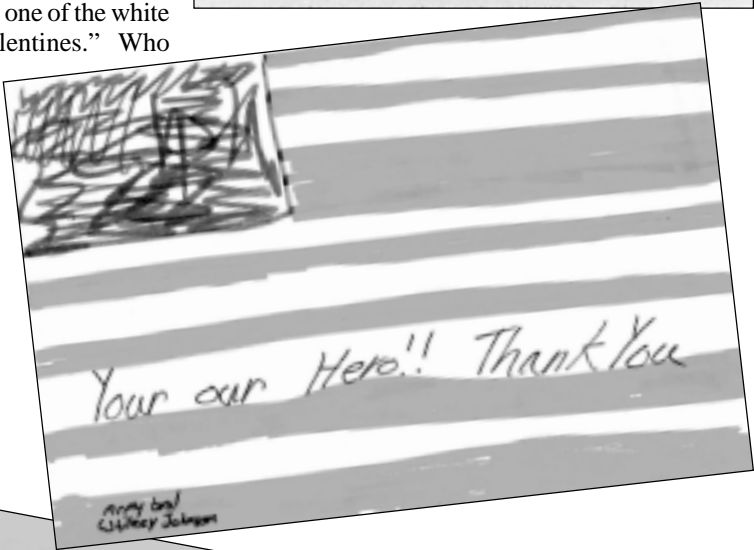
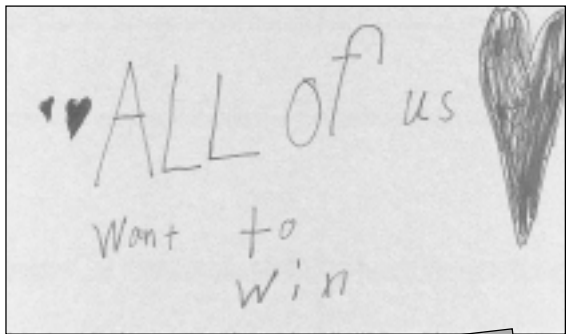
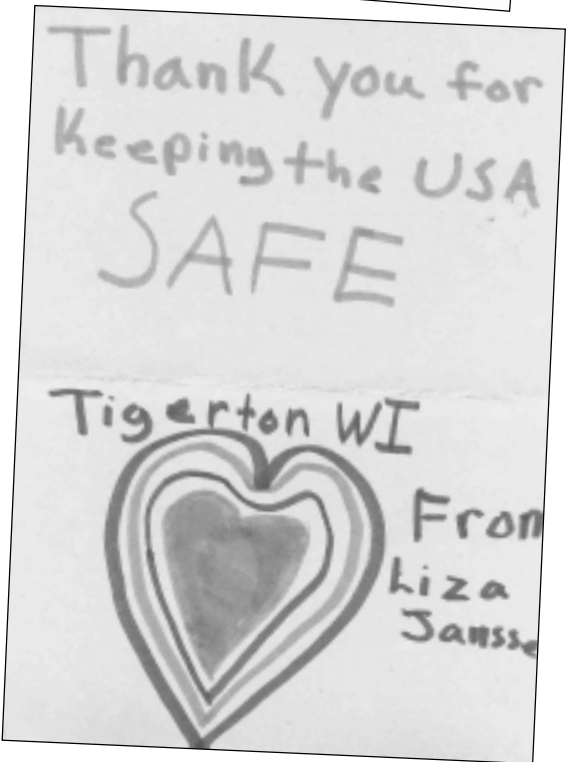
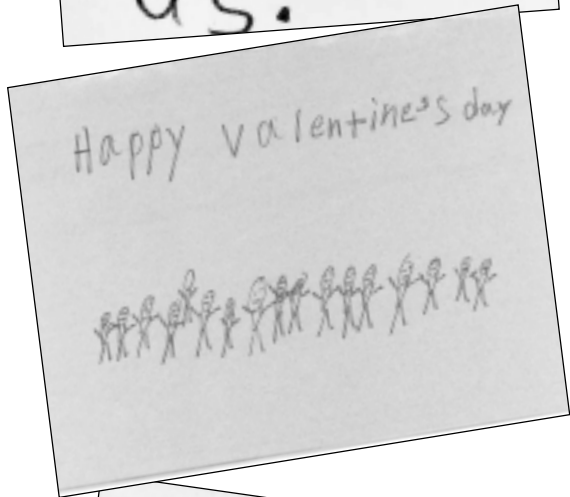
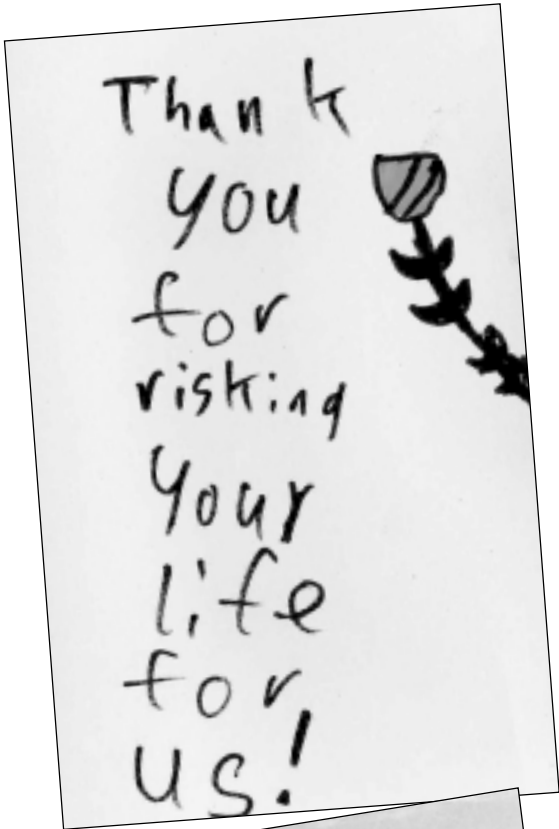
From Madison’s Emerson Elementary School there were Christmas cards. Maurice summed up his concerns by writing, “Dear soldier, hope you survive.” Kedrick took a more upbeat line, asking his service member, “How are you doing? I hope you are kicking their butts for us.” Lauren printed carefully on lined paper: “Hi I hope you are doing good. Thank you for helping people.”

Tigerton’s school kids sent Valentines. Matt wrote, “God Bless You for helping our country,” while Amy said, “Have a good time.” Bonnie took a broader view — “Thanks for saving the world.”

Sometimes the package contains a note with a story of its own. One told of a tearful pre-schooler’s dash down the hall to make sure that her message was included in the school’s package of greetings. Another apologized for a delay in sending them, explaining that several additional classes had wanted to participate when they learned the cards would be going to people from Wisconsin.

The packages make their way to our solders and airmen any way they can. They have been packed with spare parts, carried on KC-135s during swap-outs, and sent in the baggage of deploying solders and airmen. Some went to troops serving on airport security duty, others to the 147th Aviation Battalion members in Kuwait; still others went with the 32nd Military Police Company on their way to Hungary. Some even made it to “undisclosed locations.” One way or another, a Wisconsin Guard Member on duty for Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom or another important mission read every one.

Most of the children sending cards are too young to understand everything that is going on. But they understand that someone is away from home, protecting them. Whitney, of Tigerton, may have lost points for her spelling and punctuation, but she spoke from the heart. Skipping the traditional pink heart she drew an American flag. Then she carefully printed along one of the white stripes, “Your our Hero!! Thank you. Happy Valentines.” Who could ask for a better tribute than that?





# JTF Chontales



**Spc. Tracy Buck, Pearson, Wis., with the help of Spc. Sam Adams of Platteville, secures construction materials on a truck ready to roll off a barge docked in Rama, Nicaragua. The barge delivered construction equipment and other supplies Wisconsin Guard soldiers are using in Nicaragua. Buck is a member of the 1157th Transportation Company of Oshkosh, and Adams is a member of the 229th Engineer Company of Platteville and Prairie du Chien. Photo by Steve Olson.**



**Wisconsin Army National Guard engineers ‘roll along’ while building an entry road to the Joint Task Force Chontales base camp. Photo by Steve Olson.**



**Staff Sgt. Wade Hallett, right, a Janesville resident and a member of the 32nd MP Company, consults with Capt. Esteban Fitoria of the Nicaraguan Army at the Joint Task Force Chontales base camp. The 32nd MP Company performed security missions at the base camp and other locations in Nicaragua.**

Continued from Page 1

Company A, 724th Engineer Battalion waited patiently in the port city of Rama for the arrival of two barges, carrying all their heavy equipment and other construction supplies.

Once the bulldozers, small emplacement excavators, dump trucks and other equipment were safely unloaded, inspected and repaired, the 1157th Transportation Company hauled the engineers’ “beasts of burden” to the base camp site near El Coral in central Nicaragua. Along the way, the 1157th drivers had to negotiate twisty mountain roads littered with spine-compressing, teeth-rattling craters and potholes.

### Base camp construction begins

To kick off construction of the base camp — which was sited in a vacated cow pasture — the Wisconsin engineers quickly built an access road across a small stream that separated the camp from the main road. During the road construction, engineers hauled gravel from a local quarry to solidify the muddy soil surrounding the base camp.

The new road will allow later rotations, including carpenters, masons and electricians from the 829th Engineer Detachment, to finish building the base camp housing, storage and administrative centers.

“The terrain is very wet, but we’re making progress,” said Spc. Mark Russell of Company A, 724th Engineer Battalion of Medford. “I’m getting a chance to spend more time on the vibe (vibrating) roller than on past missions, so I’m keeping busy.”

### Support missions are vital

For a variety of mild ailments, medics from Company B, 118th Medical Battalion, Waukesha, provided treatment combined with wise advice for avoiding major problems. The task force’s medical staff continually warned the soldiers about snakes, lizards, scorpions, and other “creepy critters” they might encounter.

Describing conditions in the field, Staff Sgt. Ed Porter, an Ohio National Guard medic who volunteered for task force duty, stated succinctly, “Whatever doesn’t bite or sting will give you diarrhea.”



**Wisconsin Army National Guard engineers from Company A, 724th Engineer Battalion, and the 229th Engineer Company build an entry road to the base camp.**

Although relations between Nicaragua and the United States have improved in recent years, security for American military personnel remains a prime concern.

As a precaution, members of the Task Force were escorted by soldiers from the 32nd Military Police Company and Nicaraguan Army soldiers on all missions outside the base camp. The close working relationship between Nicaraguan and American security personnel fostered mutual admiration between the soldiers.

“Both nations are trying to protect our people and equipment by providing a deterrent,” said Staff Sgt. Wade Hallett of the 32nd MPs, who served as base camp provost marshal. “We have set up base camp security and roving patrols outside the camp and around the job sites. We also are escorting convoys on various missions.

“I meet twice a day with the Nicaraguan commander. We’ve formed a very good professional relationship, and we also share lots of laughs. He really enjoys learning our American slang.”

Even veterans of many de-

ployments around the globe commented that Joint Task Force Chontales was a memorable experience.

### Memories of a lifetime

Sgt. Robin Fishler, of the 229th Engineer Company, remarked that he probably will always recall how his unit hit the ground running after their equipment finally arrived. “More than anything, though, I’ll remember our surroundings — the way the Nicaraguan people live and how tough it is for them just to survive,” he said.

Like Fishler, many Wisconsin soldiers were impressed by the Nicaraguans’ tenacity in rebuilding their homes and communities after recent natural disasters, such as Hurricane Mitch, and decades of civil war and political unrest that ruined the economy. The Guard members also took home some personal satisfaction that their efforts will make life better for the people of Nicaragua. And those sentiments will last much longer than the memories of some excruciatingly hot and sweaty days in the winter of 2002.



**Spc. Wayne Schmitt, right, of Company A, 724th Engineer Battalion and Spc. Timothy Baker of the 229th Engineer Company fix a scoop loader at the Joint Task Force Chontales Base Camp. Schmitt is a resident of Gilman and Baker is from Mankato, Minn.**



# Task force chaplains engineer good will

By Keith Fenske  
At Ease Staff

The sights and sounds of engineering equipment are evident to all the occupants of Camp Paradise; but for the chaplain and his assistant, engineering friendship and understanding is their mission.

In Wisconsin, Pastor Dale Marlowe serves his congregation at Salem Baptist Church in Ashland. In Nicaragua, Chaplain (1st Lt.) Marlowe, 724th Engineer Battalion, Wisconsin Army National Guard, tends to two different flocks — the U.S. service members of Joint Task Force Chontales, and the local families in need of food and clothing.

You can catch a glimpse of Marlowe and his assistant, Spc. Jason Hohnberger, at various job sites, ministering to the soldiers and to the local people they are working to make life better for.

“We have a responsibility to connect with the local communities,” Marlowe said. “We can give the people a good starting point with the facilities we are building, and distribute the donated items to the people. Do

your best and trust God for the rest.”

Marlowe and Hohnberger have kept busy coordinating the distribution of food and other donated items to the local communities. They have also worked with the various local churches to ensure these items reach the neediest of families.

“The things we do would not be possible without the enlisted soldiers,” said Hohnberger. “We spread the word to donate the unused portions of their Meals, Ready To Eat (MREs). We want to feed the kids, not the dump. Many of the troops have also brought along donated items for us to distribute.”

For many years, Nicaragua has been torn apart by civil war. The humanitarian mission helps the local people see first hand that a military presence is not a bad thing for them, said Marlowe.

“A few of the locals weren’t sure of what to think when they saw the American soldiers around their town, but they have grown relationships with us and really appreciate the time we spend getting to know them,” said Hohnberger. “You can see the



Spc. Jason Hohnberger and Chaplain (1st Lt.) Dale Marlowe carry boxes of unused portions of Meals Ready to Eat (MREs) to a collection point in rural Nicaragua. Food that would have otherwise gone to the dump was distributed to needy families in the El Coral and La Gateada areas. Photos by Keith Fenske.

excitement in the kids’ faces, and everyone is real grateful for what we are doing to help.”

As an Army chaplain, Marlowe sees these missions as a “preventive medicine to conflict” and a constant reminder of how blessed we are to be Americans.

“Every day, we get an up close look at what other people in this world have to suffer though,” he said. “We get to see it, smell it, touch it, hear it, and taste it for ourselves. It resets our reality from what we are accustomed to.”

“Many of our soldiers are overwhelmed with the hospitality of the people we have spoken with and enjoy the differences between the Latino culture and our own,” added Spc. Hohnberger. “It’s all about making friends.”



Spc. Jason Hohnberger, center, and Chaplain (1st Lt.) Dale Marlowe, right, gather with local Nicaraguans in El Coral. The two distributed donated food and clothing to poor families during rotation three of Joint Task Force Chontales, from Feb. 15 to March 3, 2002.



Spc. Jason Hohnberger, center, and Chaplain (1st Lt.) Dale Marlowe talk with locals in El Coral, Nicaragua.

## Engineers raise base camp from knee-deep mud

By Gary Thompson  
At Ease Staff

Soldiers of the 724th Engineer Battalion — on the road again — have been building needed facilities in this poor Central American nation.

“A lot of my soldiers were here a couple of years ago during the last New Horizons project,” said 1st Lt. Daniel Buttery, commander of the Rhinelander-based Company C. “Many others have done other missions here in Central America in places like Honduras and Panama.”

More than 80 members of Company C traveled to Chontales Feb. 15 through March 3 to build schools and medical clinics in five impoverished towns. They trained with Nicaraguan soldiers, as well

as American units from every branch of service. The base camp and the job sites were constantly buzzing with the sound of generators and heavy machinery.

“When all is said and done,” said Buttery, “we will have completed 34 tent platforms for the base camp, brought roads in the base camp and around the project sites up to par, and poured seven concrete slabs for the construction projects.”

In the process, they put their soldier skills to the test. Temperatures in the 90s, with matching humidity, made every day feel like a sweltering day in August. For the first two weeks of the exercise, daily rainfall created ponds and streams and knee-deep mud where the Wisconsin engineers were trying to

build a base camp.

“I’m having fun when it’s not raining all the time,” said Sgt. Kevin Peterson, Rhinelander.

The environment here is the toughest challenge, Buttery said. It challenges the soldiers in unusual ways, as when a unit road grader got a flat tire.

“It’s kind of a pain when one of these things breaks,” said Sgt. Mark McClure, a Wausau resident. “It only takes about 20 to 30 minutes to change out the tire. I changed one other one before, that’s it. Having to do it in this environment is the challenge.”

In recent years the 724th has

become one of the most well-traveled units in the Wisconsin Army National Guard, having served in Nicaragua, Panama, and even the South Pacific’s Marshall Islands.

“If a soldier is in the unit for three years, they’ll have a chance at overseas training like this,” said Buttery.



THE MUDDER OF ALL DEPLOYMENTS — Whether afoot, right, or on tracks, top, Wisconsin National Guard engineers and troops from other components fought against a viscous red goo that tried to suck them in as they established a base camp for Joint Task Force Chontales in Nicaragua. Wisconsin Army National Guard photos.



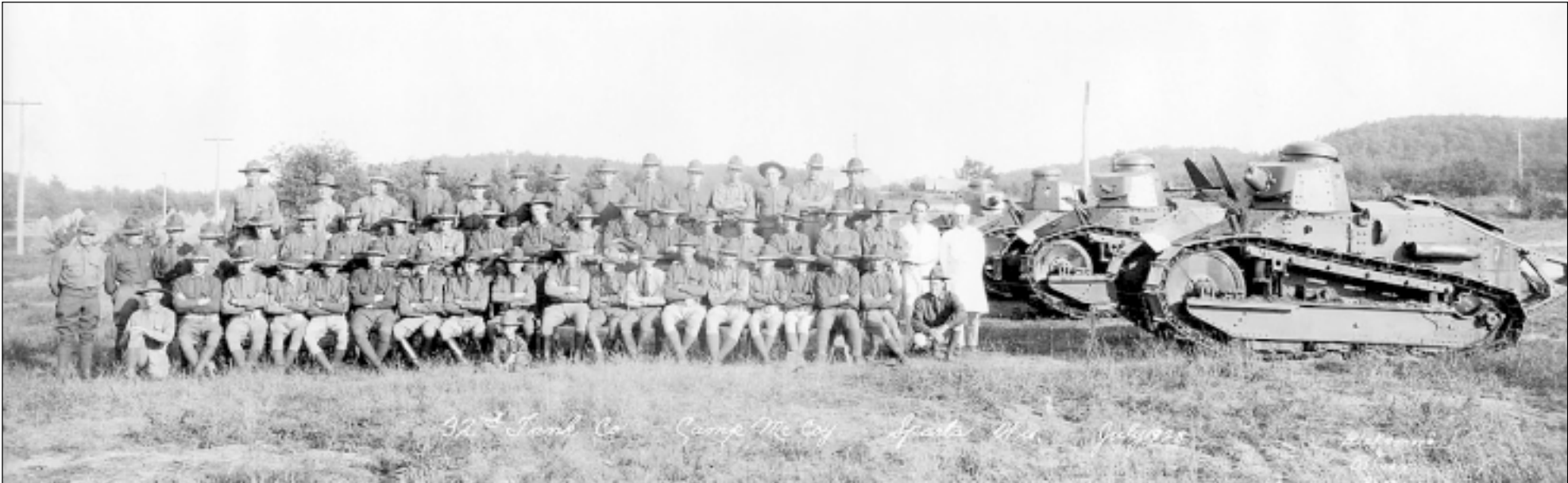




Machine Gun Troop, 105th Cavalry, crosses Otter Creek in column-of-twos. After such exercises, cavalymen and foot soldiers “breezily exchanged insults regarding their opposite numbers’ form of locomotion and the blisters it produced.” Photos courtesy of the Wisconsin National Guard Museum.



The M-2A2 “Mae West”: “This tank and all it stood for finally doomed Machine Gun Troop in Eau Claire and all the mounted cavalry in the National Guard and active Army.” Note the Red Arrow insignia on the turret.



Members of the 32nd Tank Company of Janesville pose beside their World War I-era Renault light tanks at Camp McCoy in July 1928. Seven years later, the tanks would be deactivated, to be replaced after a two-year hiatus by the twin-turreted M-2A2s.

# THE WAY Guard units move f

By Tom Doherty  
At Ease Staff Historian

Throughout the years between world wars, training at most of Wisconsin’s 77 armories changed little. By 1940 the artillery batteries had trucks as prime movers instead of horses or Caterpillar tractors as in the ’20s, but the guns were the same, the cannoneer drills and maintenance were unchanged. Infantry companies fired the same marksmanship courses with the same rifles, practiced the same bayonet drills and close order formations.

On Monday nights in the 1920s, half the cavalymen in Eau Claire’s Machine Gun Troop mounted up and moved into the wooded hills east of town on patrol. The other half studied map reading, performed weapons drills, worked fatigue details around the stables. The cavalry’s tactical role as prescribed in Army doctrine was reconnaissance. It was to be in constant motion beyond the mass of advancing infantry, sending back information about enemy movements. Machine Gun Troop’s additional job was to provide fire support to cover the infantry’s flanks. The horses were their mobility; heavy, water-cooled .30 caliber Brownings provided the firepower.

### Spoke-wheeled carts

The heavy weapons companies of the two infantry regiments in the state also packed Brownings, but theirs were on old spoke-wheeled carts pulled by farm nags or — if need be — by manpower, and so could not be so quickly deployed.

If the enemy materialized in strength somewhere on a lightly protected flank, a few squads from Machine Gun Troop would be sent to the rescue, a dozen or so men on horseback rushing to set up their weapons and lay down intersecting fields of fire, holding off the attackers — while headquarters decided what to do next: withdraw, counterattack, bring the field artillery to bear. That, at least, was the theory.

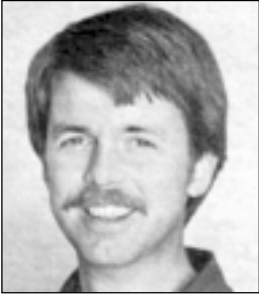
Each squad worked on a noisy, blazing tour de force drill that brought together their skills as horsemen and marksmen. It was a 100-yard, tight-formation gallop, by the end of which the gunner was swooping from his McClellan saddle and laying hold of the gun hooked to the pack horse alongside, while his assistant unhooked the tripod from the other side of the pack horse, all six men simultaneously pulling up short and swinging to the ground.

### Ammunition bearer

As the gunner and his assistant assembled the weapon, the ammunition

bearer rushed forward to the loader, who snapped open a canister and fed a belt into the breach. Meanwhile the horse holder and pack horse driver gathered the animals and led them aside. The drill was over when the gunner let loose a burst into the ground.

They bragged that they managed all this within 10 seconds, from the platoon



Tom Doherty

leader’s signal to the burst of fire into the sod 100 yards away. In fact it took longer, but if you were in the crowd at a county fair or horse show when the troop put on this display — as they often did in those years — you’d be so mesmerized that not only would you believe the 10-second claim but you might well

decide that by God this country was well-defended after all.

There was something about the sound of a machine gun squad going by at a gallop that electrified a crowd. Partly it was the usual soundtrack thunder of tight-packed hooves, but there was a clatter and crash of metal as well; and the orchestration of those sounds with a snap vision of grimacing, dust-eating troopers bent low over a blur of mane had a way of perking people up, as if a whole army had just flashed by.

Part of the effect was contributed by rocks jumping about in empty ammunition canisters. The unexpected rhythmic crashing of rocks in big tin cans had so impressed the crowd at one Governor’s Day ceremony that thereafter the effect was an essential part of every show.

### Swinging pistols

The troopers trained with pistols as well, loading up as they galloped at silhouette targets and firing at one just beyond their left knee, swinging the pistol up and over to snap a shot at the next target to the right, then swiveling in the saddle to blaze away at still another silhouette to the rear.

Some became experts with the saber, slashing and thrusting at targets they charged by horseback.

And at least a couple of times each year they lit up the sky with machine gun tracers at their range near town or at another, longer range near Lake Halle.

Like the nine other cavalry troops in the state, Machine Gun Troop appeared to occupy an enviable position in the peacetime militia. It dazzled the public and accumulated cases full of trophies and ribbons. Young men pleaded to get in.

### Cavalry ‘snobs?’

But to hear some infantrymen tell it, the cavalry had always been a snob outfit and totally useless. Descended from



# WE WERE

# rom oats to armor

high society dude outfits with names like The Milwaukee Light Horse Squadron and The Evergreen Guard of Sheboygan, the cavalry’s only functions since the Civil War had been ceremonial, for instance escorting old generals through the streets of Milwaukee during the Soldiers and Sailors Reunion of 1880 — or athletic, engaging in periodic grand tournaments in distant cities in the manner of softball teams and barbershop quartets.

At summer camp there were encounters between the two arms. Cavalrymen wincing after a trek from Camp Douglas to Fort McCoy came upon infantrymen wincing from a cross-country march. All parties immediately puffed themselves up, moved along sharply, and breezily exchanged insults regarding their opposite numbers’ form of locomotion and the blisters it produced.

To the cavalrymen, sore feet were certain evidence of a man’s low caste, while infantrymen believed there was nothing as ludicrous as a soldier who cannot sit without cringing.

Such age-old rituals were reaffirmed each year. An observer visiting drills in 1940 would have been hard-pressed to detect any changes from the early ’20s.

### Tanks new

Only in Janesville, home station of the 32nd Tank Company, was there evidence of the profound changes that warfare — and the U.S. Army — was about to undergo. For the Army ground forces, the one enduring drama of the between-wars years revolved around the tank. While senior branches sleepwalked through decades of routine, the tank force was struggling through a noisy adolescence. The same was true among our allies. Only in the armies of our potential enemies were tank forces nurtured to an early maturity. In France, England, and the United States, the tale of the tank followed essentially the same scenario that Hollywood used for the bomber story, the dive bomber story, and the aircraft carrier story, even the automatic carbine story.

### Group of visionaries

A small bank of visionaries comes nose-to-nose with a hostile establishment. The establishment offers to buy them out and relegate their weapon to a secondary role.

The visionaries refuse, insisting that this system requires an empire of its own. They hold out through years of neglect until history vindicates them. Their reward is an empire more vast and awesome than they could have dreamed. Again and again it is the decisive force in battle.

In all three countries the advocates of the tank dazzled the press and the public and won over many junior and middle ranking officers; but again and again their efforts to establish a strong armored force were snuffed out by the cavalry and infantry generals who held the levers of power in their respective war ministries.

### Chaffee backed tanks

In America, the chief uniformed visionary was Adna Chaffee, who commanded the experimental armored force during the lean years, shaped it, and ruled over its nine-fold expansion as war approached, but died too soon to see it triumph in battle. Walter J. Christie, an automotive engineer who was Chaffee’s civilian counterpart as spokesman for the tank, saw his innovations in tank development more readily adopted abroad than by the U.S. Army. The Russians used one of his models as the basis for their main battle tank, the T-34. But the U.S. Army purchased his tanks in small numbers for experimental purposes only, continuing well into the 1930s to

employ hundreds of Great War-era Renaults as the workhorses of its tank forces.

### Newest of new

Tank Company had put its Renault flivvers into storage in 1935, and for the next two years the men drove trucks, functioning as a transportation outfit. Then, in February 1937, a spanking new, twin-turreted light tank arrived by flatcar from the Rock Island Arsenal.

Once again they were a tank outfit. In contrast to the Army’s usual pattern of outfitting the National Guard with equipment a generation removed from active army issue, Tank Company now took possession of the newest of the new. This model, which was the Army’s first production model tank, had been coming off the line for only six months.

The two rounded turrets had inspired the nickname “Mae West,” but there was nothing curvaceous about the body of the machine: sharp angles, flat plates, a few reptilian slopes.

A photographer from the Janesville Gazette caught it parked at curbside before a backdrop of tidy Cape Cod bungalows, lawns covered with last falls’ leaves, and a row of bristling elms. The picture is surreal. This is Ozzie and Harriet country.

### Like new car

Yet there are all those fellows in Saturday morning civvies checking out this dark war machine as they would a neighbor’s new Packard or Pontiac, sniffing the interior and scowling at the power plant. They are up to their armpits in turrets. Faces peer from the shadows of the driver’s and gunner’s slits.

Before long its flat sides and thin-walled turrets would present easy silhouettes for the flat-trajectory anti-tank guns then under development. But by the boxy, cumbersome standards of the Great War, this was one streamlined machine.

This tank and all it stood for was what finally doomed Machine Gun Troop in Eau Claire and all the mounted cavalry in the National Guard and active Army. It represented the Army’s intention to invest heavily in a new generation of tanks. The speed and reliability built into the Mae West — and conspicuously absent from earlier models — took from the horse soldiers their last advantage.

The M-2A2, as it was officially designated, could make 35 miles an hour on the open road. It mounted three .30-caliber machine guns and one .50-caliber, more concentrated firepower in the hands of four steel encapsulated crewmen than in any cavalry troop with all its exposed human and horse flesh. It did not wear out after a few hours of hard riding, but carried enough fuel to travel 100 miles — and on indefinitely from there, as long as the fuel trucks kept up.

### Replaced ‘tired’ horses

Eventually a second Mae West arrived, but even then a man spent precious few minutes in the driver’s seat. He had to share the privilege with 70 others, and the Wisconsin winters brought a long halt to field training altogether.

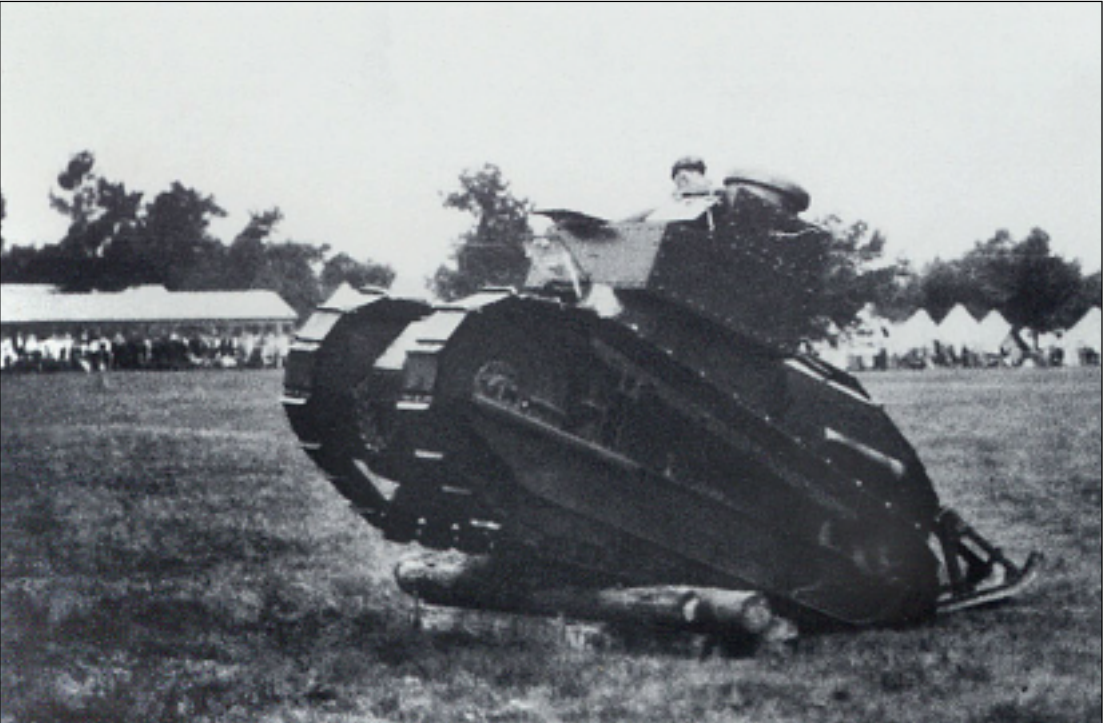
Thus, as in every other outfit, close order drill, housekeeping chores, and instruction in common military subjects like first aid and map-reading consumed the bulk of Tank Company’s drill time. But even hidden away in icy hibernation at the Rock County Fairgrounds, these tanks and thousands more across the oceans were like time bombs, ticking through the years. There would come a time, after the fall of France and before American forces were blooded in North Africa, when infantry seemed as obsolete as mounted cavalry, when all the traditional arms felt powerless in a world dominated by marauding herds of enemy tanks.



Obsolete for military purposes before the Civil War, Lancers of Blue Platoon, Troop A, 105th Cavalry, were still jumping obstacles for crowd appeal in the late 1930s.



Sgt. Calvin “Dad” Regula of Machine Gun Troop, 105th Cavalry, replaces the tread on an AV-4L-OB (Assault Vehicle, Four-legged, Oat-burning).



A Renault light tank of World War I vintage stages a demonstration of tactical maneuvers at Camp McCoy, date unknown.



# 115th podmeisters ready to jam

*Contributed by  
Tech. Sgt. Douglas Kolstad  
115th Fighter Wing*

EWAPs in the land of the Pod People: It happened last November in Madison.

The U.S. Air Force sent its Electronic Warfare Aggressor Program (EWAP) evaluation team to Truax Field to check out the work of the 115th Fighter Wing Electronic Counter-Measures (ECM) Pod Shop.

ECM is Air Force lingo for a variety of technical means used to confuse the radar-based guidance systems of enemy surface-to-air missiles (SAMs), air-to-air missiles (AAMs) and anti-aircraft artillery (AAA) which may threaten U.S. aircraft — such as the 115th’s F-16 Fighting Falcons. One of the main ECM weapons is a pod attached to the F-16 aircraft. At a signal from the jet fighter’s radar warning receiver (RWR), the ECM pod can send jamming signals

to defeat the type of radar detected.

Because of the importance of RWRs and ECM pods in defending combat aircraft, the Air Force inspects such systems rigorously: Hence the invasion of the EWAPs.

On November 5 and 6, the six-member EWAP team set up test equipment — a power generator, a threat simulator unit and a signal monitor — and tested 17 RWRs and 16 ECM pods. All passed the inspection, with the exception of one RWR that failed a part of the test; mission systems technicians were able to troubleshoot and repair the failed system within two hours.

The nine-member 115th ECM Pod Shop expressed confidence that, in the event of deployment to a hot war zone, they would be able to fulfill their unit motto: “In God we trust . . . all others we jam, monitor or deceive.”



**Members of the 115th Fighter Wing’s ECM Shop gather around the ALQ-184 Electronic Counter-Measures Pod. From left, Staff Sgt. Joshua Lowery; Tech. Sgts. Jim Nelson, Brett Sabin, Paul Revels, Frank Blader, Doug Kolstad; and Master Sgt. Fritz Dohm. (Not pictured: Master Sgt. Jeff Moll and Tech. Sgt. Tim Pollack.) Wisconsin Air National Guard photo.**

# Mechanics gear up for new missions



**Sgt. 1st Class Steve Merfeld of MATES repairs an end loader differential for Joint Task Force Chontales equipment. U.S. Army photo courtesy of the Fort McCoy Triad.**

*From the Fort McCoy Triad*

Employees at the Maneuver Area Training Equipment Site (MATES) at Fort McCoy are busy planning to field a new piece of field artillery equipment to a Wisconsin National Guard unit preparing for the transition of a key mission.

Maj. Kenneth Uting, MATES site supervisor, said MATES will help field the multiple launch rocket system (MLRS), one of the Army’s most modern weapons systems, to the 121st Field Artillery Battalion.

“We are sending people to schools to learn to perform the maintenance on this equipment,” Uting said.

The changing mission of the 32nd Infantry Brigade from mechanized to light infantry will bring many other changes for the MATES staff as well, he said. MATES will be required to recondition the brigade’s excess equipment, such as M-113A3 armored personnel carriers, not needed in the new light infantry configuration, so it can be given to other units. The loss of the M-113s, and the brigade’s M-1 tanks, is expected to cause some attrition in the MATES work force, Uting said.

However, he noted, MATES will assume the added missions of supporting the 229th and 32nd Engineer Companies, the 107th Maintenance Company and the 426th Leadership Regiment, offsetting

some of that attrition. Uting said these are among the many Army Guard units that store equipment at MATES. MATES has the primary mission to receive, store and maintain equipment at one location so all units will have the best equipment with which to train.

During the past calendar year, MATES continued to field other new equipment, such as communication kits for the Intermediate Fire Support Automated System on the Command Post Carrier Model M-577. MATES is also involved with the National Maintenance Program and currently is rebuilding and supplying a cooling pump for the M-113A3 armored personnel carrier (APC), Uting said.

“We think we will have the opportunity to increase our participation in the National Maintenance Program and bring more business to MATES, as well,” he said.

MATES personnel have provided support to a wide variety of units training at Fort McCoy during the past year. These units included active Army units from Fort Sill, Okla., that fired the MLRS at Fort McCoy, as well as Massachusetts and New York National Guard units that fired M-109A5 howitzers. MATES also is supporting Task Force Chontales, a Wisconsin National Guard mission that is providing humanitarian support to Central America, Uting said.



**Staff Sgt. Mitch Bolin (left) and Staff Sgt. Jeff Hoeth of MATES work on the M-992A2 Field Artillery Ammunition Supply Vehicle for the Paladin howitzer. U.S. Army photo courtesy of the Fort McCoy Triad.**



# Light fighters train for urban combat

By Mike Gourlie  
At Ease Staff

When four members of Company A, 2nd Battalion, 128th Infantry burst through the door of a training building at Volk Field recently, rifles blazing and enemy retreating, something seemed amiss. Nowhere to be found were troop carriers, tanks or any other mechanized equipment.

These Guardsmen — Pfc. Jon Bueno, Pfc. Thomas Geary, Spc. Daniel Killam and Staff Sgt. Todd Kuchelmeister — are the new “straight leg” version of soldier found in the 32nd Infantry Brigade, now training for 21st century warfare while using a Mission Essential Task List (METL) with a new focus. Although Military Operations on Urban Terrain (MOUT) training has always been a part of infantry training, the brigade’s new organization and the availability of training resources has moved the priority up a notch, according to Staff Sgt. Brad Gerrits, readiness NCO for the Ft. Atkinson-based infantry company.

“MOUT capabilities and training facilities were (previously) lacking,” Gerrits said. “And we now have a lot of highly trained MOUT guys to conduct the training.”

Company A’s training included clearing a building, defending a

built-up area, selecting hasty firing positions, conducting reflective fire, and performing movement during MOUT.

“This is something really different,” said Pvt. Russell Leverich, a former Alpha Company medic attached from the Headquarters and Headquarters Company for the weekend training.

“The guys were really looking forward to it,” Leverich said. “You’re not just laying in a foxhole somewhere. This is real action.”

Spc. Jason Beguhn added his endorsement while heading for evening chow between the daytime and nighttime urban training sessions. “This is some high speed training, Hooah!” he exclaimed.



Staff Sgt. Todd W. Kuchelmeister, Janesville, stands guard after his squad used urban infantry tactics to infiltrate a room during recent training at Volk Field, Camp Douglas. Photo by Mike Gourlie.



Pfc. Thomas W. Geary (kneeling), Madison, provides cover for Spc. Daniel E. Killam, Whitewater, during recent Military Operations on Urbanized Terrain (MOUT) training at Volk Field, Camp Douglas. Photo by Mike Gourlie.

## Nicaragua, Fort McCoy, and elsewhere: 2002 Annual Training important for forces

By Tom Michele  
At Ease Staff

Annual Training 2002 — conducted in Nicaragua, at Fort McCoy, and at other locations — promises to be the most significant AT in years for Wisconsin Army National Guard soldiers.

Guard engineers, medics and military police have been operating as part of Joint Task Force (JTF) Chontales in Nicaragua. JTF Chontales, named for a region in central Nicaragua, is part of a multi-year U.S. training and humanitarian aid effort called New Horizons. This year’s support extends from January through May. (See related stories, pages 1, 6-7.)

“Wisconsin is the state that

has the lead this year,” said Col. Timothy Pfrang of state headquarters. Nineteen states are participating. Lt. Col. Patrick Gallagher, of Wisconsin, is the task force commander.

“The 264th Engineer Group is serving as the headquarters,” Pfrang said. “Deployment rotations began in January. There are nine rotations of 17 days each, involving about 375 soldiers on each rotation.”

Task force troops are doing road repair and construction, providing some medical readiness and assistance to communities, constructing four two-room schools, constructing six two-room medical clinics, installing four water wells for drinking water supply and renovating a school.

In addition to soldiers from the Chippewa Falls-based 264th Engineer Group, Task Force Chontales involves members of the 724th Engineer Battalion; 229th Engineer Company; 829th Engineer Detachment; Co. A, 132nd Support Battalion; Co. B, 118th Medical Battalion; 32nd Military Police Company; 1157th Transportation Company; 1158th Transportation Company; Det. 1, 139th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment; and individuals or small cells from other Wisconsin Army National Guard units statewide.

For most other Wisconsin Army Guard soldiers, the familiar landscape of Fort McCoy will again be home for two weeks. But there will be an unfamiliar flavor to the training.

“This will be our 32nd Infantry Brigade’s first time going as a light brigade,” said Col. Terry Noack, state plans and operations officer. “That means the soldiers will be doing a lot of walking, training without vehicles. It will be a big difference being on foot. Lanes training will be the big mission for them.” For the main body of the brigade, the training is scheduled for June 8-22.

Noack also noted that many of the brigade’s soldiers will be training at out-of-state schools to prepare themselves for new military career positions as a result of the change to light infantry. “It was a priority for us to get as many of our soldiers into a MOS-Q (Military Occupational Specialty Qualification) school. This is in lieu of regular annual training.”

With the conversion of the

### Other Army Guard annual training plans:

- **832nd Medical Company** — June 8-22 (Volk Field)
- **1st Battalion, 147th Aviation** — June 8-22 (McCoy)
- **106th Engineer Detachment** — June 8-22 (McCoy)
- **232nd Personnel Services Detachment** — June 8-22 (McCoy)
- **64th Troop Command** — June 15-22 (McCoy), also cells Jan 5-13, June 8-14 and June 23-29)
- **732nd Maintenance Battalion** — June 15-29 (McCoy)
- **107th Maintenance Company** — June 15-29 (McCoy)
- **1157th Transportation Company** — June 15-29 (McCoy)
- **1158th Transportation company** — June 15-29 (McCoy)
- **13th Medical Dental Clinic** — June 15-21 (McCoy), Aug. 10-17 (Langlade and Oneida counties)
- **132nd Army Band** — June 21-July 5 (Statewide tour)
- **Headquarters 57th Field Artillery Bde** — Aug. 2-16 (McCoy)
- **Det. 2, 107th Maintenance Co.** — July 12-26, July 26-Aug 9, Aug 9-23 (McCoy)
- **1st Battalion, 126th Field Artillery** — Oct. 6, 2001; April 7-8, May 5-6, June 2-3, Aug 3-10 (McCoy)
- **64th ROC** — Jan. 15-31 (Japan), Feb. 23-March 9 (Alaska), April 11-25 (Korea), July 7-21 (South Dakota)
- **332nd RAOC** — Feb. 24-March 10 (Fort Hood)
- **54th Civil Support Team** — year around annual training
- **426th Leadership Regiment** — year around annual training
- **State Area Command (STARC)** — June 6-22 (McCoy)

brigade, this AT will have two new units training: 2nd Battalion, 128th Infantry; and the 232nd Military Intelligence Company. Two other units which were reborn in the conversion, Troop E, 105th Cavalry; and the 32nd Engineer Company, will also do annual training in June.

The 1st Battalion, 121st Field Artillery will get its first hands-on experience with the new Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS), scheduled for delivery in May.

Soldiers training at Fort McCoy will notice a new emphasis on security in the wake of the Sept. 11 attacks.

“New force protection conditions at Fort McCoy will dictate that anyone wanting to come on base must present their military identification card at the main gate,” Noack said. All other gates are locked and secured. Privately owned vehicles will have to be registered prior to arrival or at the main gate.

“This will have a very major impact for arriving troops,” Noack said. “When groups go from North Post to South Post, there must be major coordination of movements. The post has also said there will be spot checks of personnel on base to check their ID cards.”

## Wanted: youth campers and camp volunteers

Volunteer and camper applications for the 2002 Wisconsin National Guard Youth Camp will be available in April. The camp will be held August 9-11, at Fort McCoy.

Applications will be available on the Family home page on the Wisconsin Army National Guard intranet, by contacting the Family Office or at [www.wingfam.org](http://www.wingfam.org). The camp is intended for children of Army and Air National Guardmembers who are between the ages of 8 and 17.

Volunteers can choose from a variety of positions such as counselors, activity support,

administrative support, public affairs, logistics, security, cooks, fund raising, and medical.

Youths and volunteers who would like to participate should complete the application and return it, along with application fee, to TAG, DMA, WI, Attn: WIAR-PA-FAM, P.O. Box 8111, Madison, WI 53708-8111 no later than July 8.

Early application is encouraged as space is limited. Children of volunteers are guaranteed a spot at camp.

Questions can be directed to the State Family Program Office, 1-800-292-9464 or (608) 242-3480.



# Lingering impressions: A Wisconsin airman recalls September 11th at the Pentagon

By Tech. Sgt. Doug Kolstad  
115th Fighter Wing

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The article that follows is a first-person account of the scene at the Pentagon shortly after the attack on September 11, written by Doug Kolstad, a Wisconsin Air National Guard member who happened to be visiting Washington at the time. We have edited Doug's original account to fit it into available space; but the words are his.)

On Tuesday of our vacation, my wife, Carmen, and I decided to visit the White House. Just as we were about to step into line, the police guarding the White House began yelling at everyone to get back, that the White House was being evacuated. We hurriedly got away from the White House.

A large cloud of smoke appeared in the distance. Within minutes sirens began to blare, and the streets were full of speeding police cars, fire trucks and ambulances.

We walked down towards the Washington Monument and asked a man what was going on. He said the Pentagon had just got bombed. Carmen and I then walked down towards the Jefferson Memorial, then stopped along the banks of the Potomac River and watched the

smoke rising from the Pentagon.

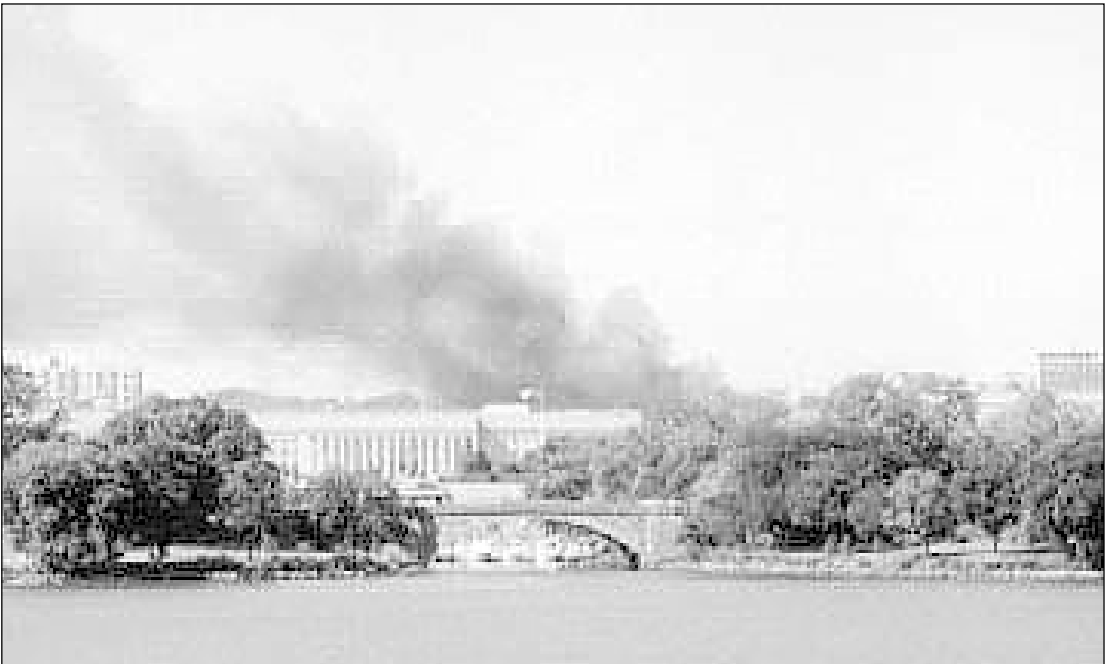
I turned to Carmen — an ER nurse at Saint Mary's Hospital in Madison and asked: If I could get her into the Pentagon, would she want to help out? Her response was a faint, "Yes."

Just as we arrived at the first police checkpoint [on the George Mason Bridge across the Potomac], they opened the bridge up for foot traffic in both directions. We reached the other side of the bridge and took the first road leading down towards the Pentagon.

We came upon another police checkpoint. I showed my military ID and explained that my wife was an ER nurse and that we were willing to help out. The officer got instructions on his radio; then he waved us forward, in the direction of a chaplain he told us to go meet.

A tall metal and glass cabinet was sitting along the sidewalk. The doors were hanging open; it was empty, except for some open boxes of medical supplies, thrown around inside. The ground was littered with medical trash, including a big pile of tongue depressors dumped on the ground. On top of the cabinet was a box of latex gloves and we each grabbed a pair, then hurried on down the sidewalk.

By now, it was 1-1/2 to 2 hours after the Pentagon had



**"We stopped along the banks of the Potomac River and watched the smoke rising from the Pentagon." Tech. Sgt. Doug Kolstad snapped this view of the northeast face of the Pentagon as he and his wife, Carmen, crossed the George Mason Bridge on their way to offer help. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Doug Kostad.**

gotten hit.

In a few minutes we found the chaplain we were looking for, Col. Horton, an Army chaplain.

She led us toward the Pentagon, and we entered through a below-ground passage. It was smoky and smelled like an electrical fire. There were flashing yellow lights, and a voice alarm kept saying to evacuate the building. We went through a number of reinforced glass

doorways. In the passageway was another pile of tongue depressors dumped on the floor.

We came out of the passageway and found ourselves in the center courtyard of the Pentagon. There were a few hundred people there, mostly military and firemen, some civilians as well. The chaplain led us to two nurses, one Air Force and one Army; she introduced us and told them that Carmen was an ER nurse. The Army nurse was wearing a sleeveless smock: Underneath it she appeared to have stars on her epaulets.

Everyone was waiting for the firemen to pull additional victims out of the fire.

There was smoke in the courtyard, and many people were wearing those medical blue colored facemasks. We found some and donned them, along with our gloves.

The grounds were littered with medical debris. There were also numerous burgundy blankets, a few with piles of medical supplies dumped on them. There were also some roll-around medical supply carts. While going through it all, trying to help Carmen find things, I ran across another pile of tongue depressors dumped on the ground.

A two-star Air Force general got up onto a park bench and gave us a briefing. He said the Pentagon had gotten hit by a 737, two other aircraft had hit the World Trade Center, and there was a fourth aircraft out there, unaccounted for — and that it might be coming our way, so be prepared to evacuate.

We became part of one of two small immediate care teams. We started separating medical supplies so the two teams were equally (though not adequately) equipped. Members of other teams came by needing supplies, and we shared what we had with them as well.

Teams of firefighters, many carrying long poles with hooks on the ends, would disappear into the building. They'd be gone for twenty minutes or so, then reappear, empty-handed. The firefighters were having a

rough go at it. Once they lost water pressure and had to spend time running hoses from hydrants elsewhere.

A fireman come out of the building and back to our area. Team members gave him oxygen and started an IV.

The FBI showed up, looking for any aircraft debris. I told an agent where I had seen some, and he handed me yellow evidence flags and asked if I would go around marking them. I quickly ran out of flags, and had to go back to him. This time he followed me around, and I pointed to all the pieces I hadn't marked. None of the pieces were very large, except a 2-foot by 1-foot wing section

**"The grounds were littered with medical debris...tongue depressors dumped on the ground."**

tion that someone said the firemen had brought out.

I went back and found Carmen; we both sat down and waited for patients.

We waited and waited. An official said they weren't expecting survivors. A group of 20 or so military people came into the courtyard, their arms full of body bags. They went to the far side of the courtyard and started laying them on the lawn.

Carmen and I waited for another half and hour then went to our team leader to see if he still needed us in the courtyard. He said he had enough people, and so we said our good-byes.

We left the courtyard, having been there 4 to 5 hours, and walked out through a vehicle passageway. Outside the Pentagon, we walked south towards where they had sent all the other medical people. We came around the corner of the Pentagon and saw rows and rows of ambulances, fire vehicles, and hundreds of medical people. Except for the firefighters fighting the fire, there didn't look to be much activity going on. We started walking southward up the hill, towards our hotel.

Halfway up the hill we turned around and took a photo of the Pentagon. We had entered the building from the other side and hadn't seen the impact point until after we left the courtyard.

## "Let's Roll..."



**South Milwaukee police chief Tim Talaska, left, and Col. John Cozad, commander of the 128th Air Refueling Wing, unveil new art work on the nose of one of the unit's KC-135R air refueling tankers. The design — by Senior Airman Duane White, Langley Air Force Base, Va. — depicts an eagle soaring in front of the U.S. flag, with the words "Spirit of 9-11" on the top and "Let's roll!" on the bottom. It will be displayed on selected aircraft throughout the Air Force to honor the heroes and victims of the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States. Photo by Staff Sgt. Dan Richardson.**



A Year in the Guard- 2002

Members of the National Guard perform 12 weekend drills and 15 days of annual training. These estimated annual pay rates do not include food and housing allowances received by many members when they do their two-week annual training.

Years of Service															
	< 2	2	3	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24	26
Commissioned Officers															
O-10												24,364	24,484	24,993	25,880
O-9												21,310	21,617	22,060	22,835
O-8	15,078	15,572	15,899	15,991	16,400	17,084	17,243	17,891	18,078	18,636	19,445	20,191	20,689	20,689	20,689
O-7	12,529	13,381	13,381	13,478	13,982	14,365	14,808	15,250	15,693	17,084	18,259	18,259	18,259	18,259	18,351
O-6	9,286	10,202	10,871	10,871	10,913	11,380	11,442	11,442	11,820	13,242	13,917	14,591	14,975	15,364	16,118
O-5	7,428	8,720	9,325	9,438	9,814	9,814	10,108	10,654	11,368	12,087	12,430	12,768	13,152	13,152	13,152
O-4	6,350	7,732	8,248	8,363	8,842	9,231	9,862	10,353	10,694	11,037	11,152	11,152	11,152	11,152	11,152
O-3	5,873	6,658	7,186	7,767	8,139	8,547	8,888	9,327	9,554	9,554	9,554	9,554	9,554	9,554	9,554
O-2	5,074	5,779	6,656	6,880	7,023	7,022	7,023	7,023	7,023	7,023	7,023	7,023	7,023	7,023	7,023
O-1	4,405	4,585	5,541	5,541	5,541	5,541	5,541	5,541	5,541	5,541	5,541	5,541	5,541	5,541	5,541
Officers with more than four years as enlisted or warrant officer															
O-3E				7,767	8,139	8,547	8,888	9,327	9,696	9,907	10,196	10,196	10,196	10,196	10,196
O-2E				6,880	7,023	7,246	7,623	7,915	8,132	8,132	8,132	8,132	8,132	8,132	8,132
O-1E				5,541	5,918	6,137	6,360	6,580	6,880	6,880	6,880	6,880	6,880	6,880	6,880
Warrant Officers															
W-5												10,428	10,786	11,145	11,505
W-4	6,068	6,528	6,716	6,900	7,218	7,532	7,849	8,159	8,480	8,787	9,102	9,410	9,728	10,042	10,364
W-3	5,541	6,010	6,010	6,088	6,337	6,620	6,995	7,223	7,472	7,757	8,040	8,324	8,606	8,890	9,175
W-2	4,875	5,153	5,397	5,574	5,725	6,038	6,267	6,497	6,721	6,968	7,222	7,476	7,728	7,983	7,983
W-1	4,305	4,657	4,893	5,046	5,275	5,512	5,749	5,985	6,224	6,462	6,699	6,878	6,878	6,878	6,878
Enlisted															
E-9							7,190	7,353	7,559	7,801	8,044	8,283	8,606	8,928	9,381
E-8						6,002	6,175	6,337	6,531	6,742	6,961	7,183	7,503	7,822	8,269
E-7	4,172	4,555	4,728	4,898	5,077	5,382	5,555	5,725	5,897	6,075	6,248	6,420	6,721	6,915	7,406
E-6	3,572	3,929	4,103	4,271	4,447	4,734	4,908	5,077	5,249	5,372	5,466	5,466	5,466	5,466	5,466
E-5	3,279	3,497	3,666	3,840	4,017	4,263	4,432	4,606	4,606	4,606	4,606	4,606	4,606	4,606	4,606
E-4	3,032	3,187	3,359	3,529	3,680	3,680	3,680	3,680	3,680	3,680	3,680	3,680	3,680	3,680	3,680
E-3	2,737	2,909	3,084	3,084	3,084	3,084	3,084	3,084	3,084	3,084	3,084	3,084	3,084	3,084	3,084
E-2	2,603	2,603	2,603	2,603	2,603	2,603	2,603	2,603	2,603	2,603	2,603	2,603	2,603	2,603	2,603
E-1	2,322	2,322	2,322	2,322	2,322	2,322	2,322	2,322	2,322	2,322	2,322	2,322	2,322	2,322	2,322

Annual pay rates are rounded to the nearest whole dollar.

“Oh, say, can you see...”



Senior Airman Tabatha Johnson, a member of the 128th Air Refueling Wing Honor Guard, sings the national anthem at the start of the Milwaukee Bucks’ NBA game Jan. 26. “I have never been more proud to be an American and a member of the Wisconsin Air National Guard,” Johnson said after the appearance. Photo by Staff Sgt. Dan Richardson.

Got war stories?  
Here’s a new outlet

Courtesy of the Wisconsin  
Department of Veterans Affairs

As participants and eyewitnesses to some of the most monumental events in American history, veterans are in a unique position to help students learn and appreciate the values, achievements and sacrifices of the men and women who have served in the armed forces.

To help schools contact Wisconsin veterans—including members of the National Guard—who are willing to share their experiences, the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) and the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) are partners in a new project.

The “Veterans in the Classroom” project is compiling a list of veterans who are willing to speak to classes or groups of students in local schools. No special skills or preparation are required; veterans just have to be themselves.

Veterans who are interested in participating in the Veterans in the Classroom program should provide the information on the reply form by mail, e-mail or phone (contact information is on the form). Forms also are available on the WDVA Web site at <http://dva.state.wi.us>.

Schools will contact the WDVA for the names of veteran participants in their area. The schools will then contact veterans directly to make arrangements for a classroom visit.

Name.....

Street Address.....

City..... Zip Code.....

Country.....

Daytime phone number.....

E-mail address.....

Period of service (what years did you serve of what wartime period).....

Optional: Highlights of your service (for example: branch of service, where you served, type of duty, battles, etc.).....

.....

PLEASE SUBMIT THIS INFORMATION TO:  
Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs  
Attention: Steve Olson  
30 W. Mifflin Street  
Madison, WI 53703  
Toll-free number: 1-800-947-8387  
Fax: 608-264-7616  
E-mail: [wdvaweb@dva.state.wi.us](mailto:wdvaweb@dva.state.wi.us)



# 32nd MPs, Richards St. armory feed 5,000 families at Thanksgiving

**Staff Sgt. Stephen Pepper**  
32nd Military Police Company

With the help of the National Guard, Milwaukee-area citizens gave a free Thanksgiving dinner to more than 5,000 needy local families last November.

Despite many new giving opportunities as a result of the Sept. 11 attacks, donors still found room in their hearts to contribute to Rietman and Mueller's Family-to-Family Services and Aurora Health Care Food Drive and Distribution.

Giving remained about even with the previous year, making the sixth annual drive a success.

The yearly campaign was started by Staff Sgt. Stephen J. Pepper, readiness NCO of the



Stephen Pepper

32nd Military Police Company. Working with Kathleen Ludington, Milwaukee's Family-to-Family Service coordinator, Pick n' Save food stores and 94 WITI radio, Pepper devised a plan under which food and cash donations are solicited at Pic n' Save stores the first three Saturdays in November and the Thanksgiving dinners are packed for distribution at the Richards Street Armory.

The program has expanded each year since 1996 except for 2001, when holding steady was considered a major achievement due to the intense need for charitable dollars. Next year's goal is to feed 6,000 families.

Although the event began as a recruiting and retention tool



Thousands of bags of food destined for needy families' Thanksgiving tables fill the drill floor at the Richards Street armory in November. Photo courtesy Staff Sgt. Stephen J. Pepper.

for the Guard, Pepper feels the positive effect on the community has exceeded original expectations.

"I have seen this event grow greatly, and I am grateful that the Guard has allowed me to participate," Pepper said. "I

hope that the Guard will continue to support this and other events like this long after I'm gone."

## Troops make limited use of "Limited Use Policy"

**By Mike Gourlie**  
At Ease Staff

Soldiers who abuse drugs could save their Guard careers — and maybe something even more valuable — by means of an existing but under-utilized program, according to the Wisconsin Army National Guard's top legal officer.

At present, the amnesty program "is ineffective due to the fact that there are virtually no referrals," said Col. Mathew Dew, state judge advocate.

The "Limited Use Policy" protects soldiers from adverse action due to the use of illegal drugs if they self-refer and follow the procedures of the policy including a prescribed treatment protocol

and follow-up testing.

The program is intended to allow soldiers to ask for help without penalty rather than get caught during drug testing. Wisconsin randomly tests roughly half of its Army National Guard soldiers yearly. Once a soldier has been chosen for a random drug test, it is too late for self-referral under the Limited Use Policy.

Dew said the program's low use rate has "a lot to do with the fact that people don't think about the consequences until they get caught, and then it is too late." For soldiers who are also students, these consequences can add up to thousands of dollars in lost tuition reimbursement, he said.

In addition, some soldiers who abuse drugs don't think they have a problem.

"Many still believe that some drugs — in particular marijuana — are non-addictive, have few side effects, don't affect their ability to perform and are basically non-harmful," Dew said. Consequently, these soldiers feel the Army's abuse policy is too restrictive and perhaps antiquated, he said.

It is an argument not worth the time, according to Dew. "The Guard will not debate this issue," he said. "What does matter is that the military has zero tolerance for drug abuse and you can be processed out for violating it."

Full-time Army Guard soldiers who self-refer generally have resources available to them for assessment and treatment. However, M-Day soldiers must

find assessment and treatment services on their own.

A soldier can use the program only once to avoid adverse action as a result of drug use.

Chief Warrant Officer Mike Kreisler, military personnel supervisor at state headquarters, said that both the adjutant general and deputy adjutant general "highly encourage self-referral." In spite of this support, however, over two percent of those being tested "still test hot" — and until this gets to zero, said Kreisler, "we still have a problem."

Soldiers wishing more information about the "Limited Use Policy" can access it through AR 600-85 or contact Kreisler at (608) 242-3406.

## Cubs scout Rapids OMS



Master Sgt. Charles Benbenek, shop supervisor at Organizational Maintenance Shop 14, explains shop operations to Cub Scouts and their parents. The scouts, from Tiger Cub Pack 188 of Washington Elementary School, Wisconsin Rapids, toured the Wisconsin Rapids Armory Nov. 28 as guests of 1st Battalion, 120th Field Artillery and OMS 14. Wisconsin Army National Guard photo.

## First official history of Army National Guard released

**By Maj. Ellen G. Krenke**  
National Guard Bureau

"Everything you ever wanted to know about the Army National Guard," is how you would describe a new book by Col. Michael D. Doubler (Retired).

The book, "I Am The Guard: A History of the Army National Guard, 1636-2000," is the first official history of the Army National Guard and is now available for \$48.50 through the Government Printing Office at [www.gpo.gov](http://www.gpo.gov).

"It's an interpretative history of the National Guard," Doubler said. "It's not only the facts, but an analysis of what was done during different times in history."

The book, which took about 3-1/2 years to write, is a comprehensive account of the service of American citizen-soldiers since colonial times with over 70 photographs.

Doubler, who served on active duty for 14 years before joining the Delaware Army National Guard, was a speechwriter for Lt. Gen. Edward D. Baca, chief of the National Guard Bureau, when he signed on for this project. A military history professor at West Point for three years, Doubler said he was motivated by the fact that the Army National Guard did not have a book

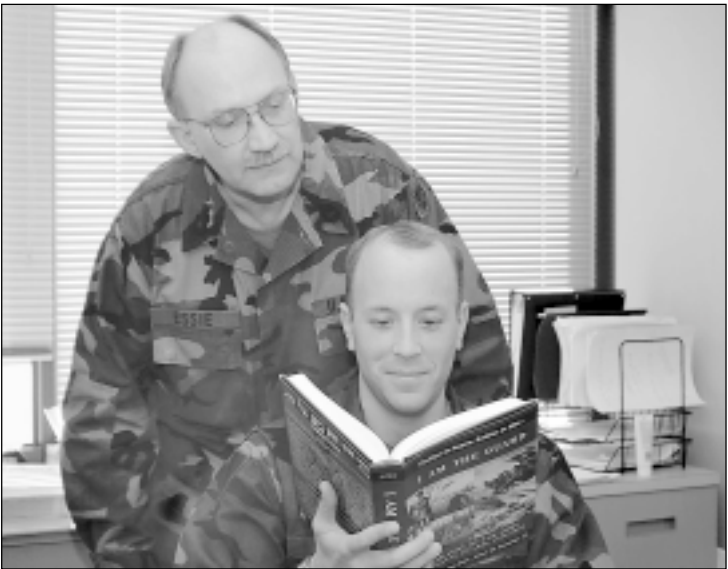
that told its complete story. "It had to be started...and finished," he said.

The previous standard work on the Army National Guard was a book entitled "The Minuteman in War and Peace," by Jim Dan Hill. The book begins with the Civil War, leaving out about 250 years of Army National Guard history.

Doubler said his book offers

"complete, balanced coverage from beginning to end. I also wanted to make it relevant to today's National Guard member. This book fills that void. It ends with the 49th Armored Division's deployment to Bosnia."

"I Am The Guard" focuses on the national level of the National Guard, because it would be impossible to track the history of each state, Doubler said.



Master Sgt. Zip Essie peers over the shoulder of 2nd Lt. Tom Hay as the two examine retired colonel Michael Doubler's new book, "I Am The Guard," the first official history of the Army National Guard from its birth in 1636 to the present day. Photo by Larry Sommers.



## National News Briefs

### Combat troops get tax break

Service members in Afghanistan will receive significant tax breaks as a result of an executive order signed Dec. 14 by the president. The order is effective Sep. 19, the day troops first started deploying for Operation Enduring Freedom. The combat zone tax exclusion applies to service in Afghanistan and the airspace above it. Service members directly supporting operations in Afghanistan from other locations are also eligible if they are receiving imminent danger pay or hostile fire pay.

As a result of the order, enlisted service members and warrant officers will pay no federal income tax on all basic pay and special pay. Officers will pay tax only on that portion of their pay that exceeds the highest enlisted pay plus the \$150 imminent danger pay, a figure currently set at \$5,043.

Since the order is retroactive to Sep. 19, eligible service members can expect a refund of taxes already paid and future withholding to stop.

### VA ups guaranty on loans

WASHINGTON — An act recently passed by Congress and signed by President Bush increases the guaranty on Veterans Affairs home loans from \$50,750 to \$60,000.

The increase means eligible veterans can use their loan benefit to purchase a home costing as much as \$240,000 without a down payment. Many lenders will make VA no-down-payment loans for four times the maximum guaranty amount, said Judy Caden, deputy director of VA's Loan Guaranty Service.

The act also increases specialty housing grants from \$43,000 to \$48,000 for severely disabled veterans who need homes built to accommodate wheelchairs. The grant pays for such things as wider hallways, lowered kitchen appliances and counter tops, and bigger bathrooms, Caden said. Veterans can use both a grant and a regular VA guaranteed loan to cover the total cost of their home purchase, she said.

The new law also extends housing loans for National Guard and Reserve personnel from September 2007 to Sept. 30, 2009. Reserve component personnel are authorized the same home loan guarantees as active duty personnel.

### Keep your frequent flier miles

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill. (Army News Service) — The 2002 Defense Authorization Act now allows official travelers to accept promotional items, including frequent flier miles, and use them for personal travel.

According to the new law "any promotional items through official travel belong to the traveler," said Dwight Moore, staff attorney at U.S. Transportation Command and a principal writer of the proposal. Mileage received by service members and federal employees before the bill was passed is also "grandfathered," Moore said. People who have accumulated mileage in frequent flyer accounts through official travel over the past years own all of that mileage, he said. Frequent-traveler benefits include points or miles, upgrades, or access to carrier clubs or facilities.

The law also states that government travelers cannot accept special promotional items that are not available to the general public. "The promotional material must be obtained under the same terms as those offered to the general public and must be at no additional government cost," according to implementing instructions.

### Medals, insignia for terror war

WASHINGTON (Army News Service) — The Army gave approval early this month for soldiers who are actively involved in operations Enduring Freedom and Noble Eagle to wear certain insignia and medal devices.

Any reserve component soldier involuntarily mobilized in support of operations Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom is eligible to receive the Armed Forces Reserve Medal with "M" device, according to the Total Army Personnel Command. Volunteers are also eligible for the award, officials said, but their orders should cite that duty is in support of the war-on-terror operations.

Also, sleeve insignia for former wartime service and overseas service bars have been approved for soldiers assigned to units taking part in ground operations during Operation Enduring Freedom.

### Army expands resort lodging

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (Army News Service) — The Army is adding more rooms to its "Shades of Green" hotel at Walt Disney World Resort in Florida and building a brand new hotel in the heart of Bavaria, Germany. The \$132 million projects won't cost taxpayers a dime. Construction will be funded through a commercial loan to be repaid from income generated by the four Armed Forces Recreation Centers. (The other two AFRCs are the Dragon Hill Lodge in Yongsan, Korea, and the Hale Koa Hotel in Honolulu.)

The new 330-room hotel in Garmisch, an hour south of Munich, Germany, at the foot of the Bavarian Alps, will replace four older hotels. Across the Atlantic in Orlando, Fla., the Army is adding 299 guest rooms to the 287-room Shades of Green at Walt Disney World Resort. During the 18 months of construction slated to begin in April, the hotel will close, but military rates will still be available at quality hotels in the area through the Shades of Green web site, according to officials.

# Fake IDs, cash prompt Milwaukee airport arrest

By Larry Sommers  
At Ease Staff

A Wisconsin National Guard member on airport security duty blew the whistle on a suspicious-looking passenger Thursday, March 7, at Milwaukee's General Mitchell International Airport.

Spc. Brian Pagliaroni led sheriff's deputies and FBI agents to Ousman Sallih, a man traveling with numerous forms of false identification and \$44,000 cash stuffed in a series of numbered envelopes. Authorities arrested Sallih, who was indicted the following Tuesday on a number of federal charges, including identity fraud.

A screener from the airport's private security contractor, Globe Aviation Services Corporation, searched Sallih's baggage and found the passports and cash. Be-

cause they did not pose an immediate danger to the aircraft or passengers, Sallih was permitted to go to the departure gate, but one of the screeners brought the matter to Pagliaroni's attention.

Pagliaroni called sheriff's deputies and went with them to the gate, where Sallih was confronted, questioned, and taken into custody.

"He followed all the rules and did very well," said Pagliaroni's su-

pervisor, Sgt. 1st Class Joseph Chapa. "He's a very assertive soldier out on the concourse."

Pagliaroni, of Kenosha, is a cannoneer in Battery C, 1st Battalion, 126th Field Artillery. In civilian life, Pagliarone is a firefighter and paramedic with the Sturtevant fire department.

"I'm glad they got they guy."

Pagliaroni said of law officers who made the arrest. "We're doing a really good job here."



Spc. Pagliaroni

# No changes for Army weight program — yet

WASHINGTON (Army News Service) — While the Army is reviewing its rules governing the weight control program in Army Regulation 600-9, don't expect to see any changes before fiscal year 2003.

That guidance and a message to stick to the current policy were sent to senior noncommissioned officers last week by Sgt. Maj. of the Army Jack L. Tilley in a "SMA sends" e-mail.

"Don't let your soldiers get caught up in the speculation about changes to the program," he stated. "Rest assured that any decisions we make will be driven by what's best for the health of our soldiers and the readiness of our Army."

The current review was partly prompted by a Government Accounting Office report and a Department of Defense directive for the armed services to get more standardized programs.

Currently, weight control and physical fitness standards are developed and implemented independently by each service.

Another reason for the review, said Lt. Col. Margaret Flott, chief of the Individual Readiness Policy Division, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, is that the Army knows more about health issues and physical fitness based upon medical science than it did years ago.

"When I joined the Army, we did physical training in combat boots and fatigues," Flott said. "Soldiers no longer wear combat boots when doing PT because we now know that practice is not healthy. Likewise, we now wear appropriate clothing for PT."

"The review of the weight control program is about using established medical science based upon the general (United States) population — information we didn't

have 15 years ago when the current regulation was written — and testing it to see what is best for our soldiers and for the Army."

The Army is still in the information-gathering stage of the review, said Lt. Col. Linda Williams, a health promotion policy staff officer. The next step will be to field test proposals and practices, she said.

Following the field test, recommendations for any changes will be staffed at both the Army headquarters and major military command levels — a process which could take up to a year — before any changes might be made, Williams continued.

"We are reviewing our current policy to determine whether changes should be made and what they should look like," Williams said. "Our ultimate objective is to improve the health and readiness of the force."

## 'Snake on a stick'



Sgt. 1st Class Ed Gruber, above, a technician at Army Aviation Support Facility 2 in Madison, works under an AH-1 Cobra helicopter, using chains to secure it to its stand as a static display at the facility. The completed static display, right, greets visitors to AASF #2 and the 147th Aviation Battalion. Photos by Larry Sommers.







# at ease

Spc. Jason Hohnberger, a chaplain's assistant with the 724th Engineer Battalion, gets acquainted with a young Nicaraguan while on a humanitarian assignment as part of JTF Chontales, the New Horizons 2002 mission in Nicaragua. See related stories on pages 1 and 7. Photo by Keith Fenske.

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